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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

THE THREE BROTHERS.

SIR,

ON reading the last number of your Magazine, I was struck with a letter, the writer of which pointed out with much force the fatal consequences of duelling. The subject immediately brought to my recollection, a circumstance of that nature which I had met with some time ago in a French book, and which at the time I read it, affected me very sensibly, and has dwelt, ever since in my memory. As example is beyond precept, I doubt not but your readers will be pleased with hearing the particulars of a transaction, so powerfully tending to illustrate the arguments adduced by your correspondent. They are extracted from the memoirs of a gentleman, who lived a long time in the family of the celebrated Cardinal Richlieu, and in some measure shared his confidence. The incidents of his life, which preceded the melancholy affair, that has induced me to lay it before you, though not closely connected with it, will, I presume, excite sufficient interest to apologize for their insertion.

Rochefort was the son of a gentleman of noble birth, but small fortune, who resided near Paris. He had the misfortune to be deprived of his mother when an infant, and his father marrying soon after, he suffered the neglect too commonly experienced by those over whom a stranger is substituted in place of the natural guardian of their helpless years. After dwelling with his nurse for the first ten years of his life, disregarded and almost totally unknown by his father, he at length through the interference of a relation was taken home. This change however profited him but little. The severity of a step-mother, rendered him not only a stranger but almost a servant in his father's house, and he at length formed the desperate resolution of flying from it for ever.

The arrival of a band of strolling beggars, resembling the Gypsies in England, confirmed him in his intention. Their life of thoughtless idleness pleased him; he joined their company, and was soon initiated in all the petty knaveries by which they procured subsistence. Indeed, so apt a scholar was he, that, as we are informed by himself, he had not quitted his father's lands, when he brought into the common stock, six pullets, which he had purloined. He was rewarded for this early promise of talent, with a glass of brandy, by the chief of the gang, who at the same time expressed his confidence, that he would one day be an honour to his profession. In this company he continued five years, but at length as his understanding began to ripen, the reflection of what he had been, and of the degraded line of life in which he was at present, began to make an impression on his mind, and he determined to quit it for some more suitable to his birth and family. This resolution was confirmed by the breaking up of the gang, when in the south of France, among the Pyranees. He took the road to Roussillon, and having arrived at the town of Locates, offered his services to the Governor as a soldier, and was accepted.

He had no sooner engaged in the military life, than he sighed for an opportunity of signalizing himself. For this purpose he applied for leave to make a sally to the environs of the neighbouring town of Salses, then occupied by a garrison of Spaniards. Having with some difficulty succeeded in his application, he sallied forth, attended by a single comrade. In this Quixotic expedition, he showed

some sagacity and foresight. In some of his former reconnoitring parties, he had discovered that a Spanish officer carried on an intrigue with a young woman in the neighbourhood, and that they met at a waste house, near the walls. Thither he repaired; concealed his comrade in a well, and pretended to be busily employed in washing some linen. Soon after a soldier came from the town, and on seeing nothing near but a boy so employed, retired and gave the signal to his master, who was soon perceived directing his steps to the place of assignation, where the lady came at the same time. But scarce had they time to give vent to the first expressions of affection, when Rochefort rushed in with a pistol in each hand, calling on him to surrender. His summons was obeyed. He led off his two astonished prisoners to the place where his comrade was concealed; and the officer seeing him so well seconded gave up all thoughts of resistance or escape. They proceeded till they had got to some distance from the enemy's town, when his companion showing an inclination to take improper liberties with their female prisoner, a quarrel ensued, in which Rochefort defended his prize so gallantly, that the other made his escape. He was now exposed to a new danger; the soldier fearful of punishment on his return, deserted and gave information of what just occurred; a party was sent out, and he had just arrived at the gate of Locates when he saw three horsemen galloping up to overtake him.

This action gained so much on the Governor, that he wrote an account of it to court; and Cardinal Richlieu, who then held the reins of government, was so much pleased with the relation, that he ordered the young soldier to be sent to Paris, at the same time remitting a sum sufficient to equip him, and to defray the expenses of the journey. The young adventurer made no delay in availing himself of this dawn of good fortune; he instantly set out for Paris. On approaching that city, he turned aside to pay a debt of duty and gratitude, by waiting on his father, and remunerating poor Clergyman in the neighbourhood, who had given him a small sum, when he quitted his father's house. His reception in these places was very different. In the latter he received a hearty welcome, but with the former his reception was such as might be expected by a runaway son, from a harsh step-mother. His horse was left without hay and oats, and himself scarcely asked to his father's table; 'chagrined to the highest degree, he smothered his resentment through respect, determining however to quit the inhospitable mansion, as early as possible, at day break. While he was ruminating on this disagreeable subject in his chamber, he was astonished at the unexpected appearance of his father and step-mother, who addressed him with every mark of affection, and made innumerable apologies for their coolness, which they attributed to every cause but the right one. The reason of the change may be easily divined. His servant had mentioned the circumstances of his journey; and he was now no longer the fugitive step-son, but the protogeé of the all-powerful minister of France. The house and all that it contained was now at his service; not without a hint that it might be soon in his power to repay, by future favours, this unexpected display of parental affection. The next morning, as he was preparing to set out, he found a breakfast prepared, as if for the entertainment of a personage of the first consequence. The servants had been summoned two hours before day; and every branch of the family within reach collected; the yard was crowded with horses, and the house with friends and relations all eager to pour out a profusion of compliments and services to the young courtier. He never before knew all his relatives; with difficulty he got out of their hands, and proceeded on his journey; having now for the first time experienced a sample of that flattery, which he was to receive in a more refined form when ushered in at court, under the same character that had caused such a change in the conduct of his father's family.

On his introduction, the Cardinal was at first disappointed, but from

his conversation finding that he had a spirit beyond his years, he soon changed his opinion, and retained him in his family in the quality of a page. In this employment he quickly ingratiated himself into his master's good graces, and showed such proofs of intelligence and fidelity that he was intrusted in the management of several of his court intrigues. Some of these are worthy of mention from their singularity. At one time he was sent to the road to St. Denis with a bag of gold, which he was directed to place under a particular stone, and to return immediately without ever looking behind him. At another time he was sent to a particular place, where he found a man in an attitude which had been previously described to him, leaning with his face on one hand against a tree, holding the other hand behind his back, as a physician is sometimes exhibited on the stage, angling, if I may so call it, for his fee. Into this hand a sum of money was to be deposited, which was done without ever seeing the face of the person who received it. In these kind of secret services he past two years, much against his inclinations, for his mind still retained a strong bent towards the military profession, in which he had made such an honourable commencement.

During his good fortune he was not forgetful of his former friends. The first favour he obtained from the Cardinal was a small church preferment, for his old patron, the curate. This unexpected present was attended with consequences he did not at first foresee. If it excited the gratitude of the person on whom it was bestowed, it brought on him a torrent of abuse from his step-mother, who did not fail to vent her reproaches on him for overlooking his own family. She was at length pacified by fair promises. But he had scarcely rid himself of her anger, when he was overwhelmed with the importunities of his relations. On hearing of his successful interference in behalf of the curate, they poured in upon him in multitudes, from every quarter. The extent and number of his connections was incredible. From Picardy to Bearne, not a province but could produce some of his family, all prepared with genealogies and pedigrees to prove the kindred. Their reception was not such as they might think themselves entitled to, and they all returned fully convinced that their favoured relation had not been so long at court, without learning at least one part of his trade, the art of denying with a good grace.

In the mean time the Cardinal who became every day more attached to him, continued to employ him in his secret intrigues. Of these we shall pass over the most, as differing little from what may be met with in the calendar of every corrupt and intriguing court; one however is worth notice from the danger to which he was exposed, and the ingenuity with which he extricated himself. He was dispatched to Brussels, in the disguise of a Capuchin, to unravel some designs supposed to be carried on against the Cardinal. This was a service of a new and very disagreeable nature. To prevent suspicion he was obliged to submit to all the rigid discipline of that order; to travel on foot, to sleep hard, and rise several times during the night to attend the religious offices of the convent. In short, his manner of life was the very reverse of what he had been hitherto accustomed to, and therefore agreed very ill with him. But such sacrifices were necessary to retain his master's good graces. He therefore submitted in silence, but not without repining. One day as he was quitting the house of a nobleman into whose good graces he had insinuated himself for the purpose of gaining information, he was met by three gentlemen, one of whom after looking at him very steadily, cried out, "That must be Rochefort if he is alive." Rochefort scarce heard the words, when without giving himself time to look back, he quickened his pace, and turning down the first street he met, escaped any further investigation. He immediately went to a taylor's shop, and told the master of it, that if he immediately furnished him with a suit of clothes, he should be well paid, adding that, though a Capuchin, he always kept a small purse in private, to provide against emergencies. The

taylor, glad of bringing his wares to a good market, supplied him with what he wanted, for which he did not charge much more than double price. Rochefort did not delay a moment to change his clothes, and having hired horses, rode out of the town, disguised as a Spaniard. He had need of all his haste, for the whole town was soon in an uproar, guards were placed on the convent, and every measure taken to prevent his escape. His enemies were doubly anxious to seize and punish him not only as a spy, but to retaliate on the Cardinal, for the death of a nobleman of the Spanish party, whom he had caused to be beheaded shortly before, for engaging in a conspiracy against his own life.

His first step on his arrival at Paris was to present himself to the Cardinal, who was very much surprised and enraged, at finding that he had returned without leave. On hearing the whole story, however, he was conscious of the necessity of the step he had taken, and Rochefort was again admitted to his former intimacy. He had now arrived at the meridian of prosperity; his expenses, which were very great, for his good fortune had not made him an economist, were defrayed by his patron, and new favours were daily bestowed upon him by his indulgent master. Nor while he himself was basking in the sun, was he forgetful of his friends, who were still in the shade. He had already procured a pair of colours for his eldest brother, who, after having served two or three campaigns with some credit, lost his life in Flanders. On his death he procured the appointment for another of his brothers, and shortly after introduced his youngest brother to the Cardinal, and prevailed upon him to promote the former to a lieutenancy, and bestow the vacant ensigncy on the latter.

All these favours were granted with so much willingness that Rochefort thought he could not do too much for such a patron, and sighed for an opportunity of giving a proof of his zeal and gratitude. Such an opportunity soon presented itself. As he was one evening dining in a mixed company, an Englishman who was present, either instigated by wine, or from some private pique, broke out into the bitterest invectives against the Cardinal, whom he spoke of as a minister defiled with the most enormous crimes. At first Rochefort checked himself and calmly remonstrated with him on the impropriety of such language towards his friend. But as this had no effect, and the stranger proceeded still farther in his abusive language, his passion got the better of his prudence, and he threw a plate at the other's head. They immediately had recourse to their swords, and the dispute would have been decided on the spot, had it not been for the interference of their friends, by whose means they were separated for the time.

The next morning while he was yet in bed, he was informed that a gentleman wished to speak with him, and on his being introduced, he immediately recognized the features of one of the company of the former evening. The intention of his visit may be easily guessed. He told him that his friend the Englishman wished to wipe off an affront which could only be expiated by the blood of one of the parties, requested that he would come at a time and place appointed, with two of his friends, there to decide the dispute without interruption.

The request was instantly complied with; and nothing now remained for Rochefort but the choice of the two friends who were to accompany him. Duelling was in these days still more bloody and fatal than it is at present. The sword, a weapon much more deadly than the pistol, was always used on such occasions, and it was the custom to go to the ground, attended with two or three friends, who were not content to be calm spectators of the contest, but thought themselves bound in honour to act as principals, and thus the decision of a trivial point of honour was not seldom attended with the loss of several lives. Rochefort was long deliberating on whom he should turn his thoughts, but at length reflecting that he was about to engage in the Cardinal's cause, and that he had two brothers at present in Paris, of an age to carry arms, and who had been indebted to his friendship for the promotion they already enjoyed, he thought

that they were the fittest persons to avenge his quarrel. To them, therefore, he imparted his proposal, which was accepted on their part, with the greatest avidity.

With them, therefore, he set out to the wood of Boulogne, the place of rendezvous, where he found his adversaries prepared for the encounter. Their swords were immediately drawn, each singled out his opponent, and commenced the attack with all the vigour and address of which they were masters. Rochefort's eldest brother was first wounded, but was able to wound his antagonist in turn, and disarm him. Rochefort himself had equal success, having forced his sword from the person with whom he fought, and both now hastened to the relief of their youngest brother, who was still engaged and closely pressed. They had just come up to his relief when he received a thrust through the body and dropped dead at their feet. Such a sight was sufficient to rouse their utmost fury; they fell with united rage on his murderer, who soon found himself overpowered by a contest so unequal: he called out for quarter; generosity to the vanquished prevailed over the desire of revenge, and he was permitted to retire with his companions, unhurt.

They had thus gained three swords, a small compensation for the loss of a brother, whom they left breathless on the field of battle. But this was not all: his elder brother, who had been wounded through the body, as they were preparing to retire, suddenly expired in his arms. Thus was he the cause of the death of two brothers whom he tenderly loved, and whom he had led out to be innocently slaughtered. His step-mother, who had before charged him with the death of her eldest son, that had been killed in Flanders, now renewed her accusation with greater justice, and loudly upbraided him with being the premeditated murderer of all his nearest relations. The Cardinal also, though it was in his cause that the quarrel had commenced, refused to countenance him. Duelling had been strictly prohibited: two noblemen had lately expired on the scaffold, for their breach of this salutary edict. For four months he spent a miserable wandering life, obliged to keep himself strictly concealed from every eye; and known only to one or two confidential friends, who were on the watch to seize on and report to him any favourable circumstance that might occur. At length it was intimated to him, through this channel, that the Cardinal wished him to deliver himself into the hands of justice. Though he could not divine the motives of such an order, he did not hesitate to obey; the life he now led became more intolerable than death itself. He surrendered himself, but upon being brought to trial he was surprised to find the accusation drawn up in such favourable terms, that it could not have been more so, if prepared by himself. It stated that his antagonist not content with insulting him in a private company, had waylaid him in the wood of Boulogne, on his return from Versailles, with his three brothers, that they felt themselves constrained to use their swords in their own defence; not without having made the strongest remonstrances against such an infringement of the orders of the king. Defence against such an accusation was neither tedious nor difficult; he was of course acquitted. On being introduced to the Cardinal, he was informed to whom he owed the obligation of being so honourably extricated from his dangerous situation. Unwilling openly to take the part of one who had committed so flagrant a trespass against the laws, he concealed his real intention under the disguise of affected anger, and thus permitting the first ebullition of the royal anger to subside, had the informations drawn up in the favourable form already stated.

Such was one among innumerable other examples of the fatal consequences of this inhuman practice. The above narrative may also serve to show in a slight degree, the manners of the French court at that day. If such were its practices when it was directed by the abilities of the greatest statesman of his time, what must they have been when the ruling minister endeavoured to supply deficiency of talent, by superior skill in the arts of intrigue. Each exulted in turn in the short lived success of his pet-

ty artifices, while the state sunk gradually through their machinations into a state of corruption and debility, under which it could no longer exist, and from which it had not strength to extricate itself. Of the dreadful consequences of such a train of perverted policy, successively conducting it through the extremes of vice and anarchy and slavery in every shape, we of the present day are destined to be the spectators.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ANECDOTES OF INDIAN MUSICK.

BY W. OUSELEY, ESQUIRE.

WHEN I first resolved to apply myself to the study of the fine arts, as cultivated among the Persians, I solicited from various correspondents, settled in the East, the communication of such books and original information on those subjects as their situation might enable them to procure, whilst I availed myself of every opportunity that offered in this country to increase my collection of Oriental manuscripts.

With two fine copies of Sadi's *Gulistan* and *Bostan*, which once belonged to the celebrated *Chardin*, I have lately been so fortunate as to purchase a short, but very curious essay on *Persian* Musick, which from many circumstances I am willing to persuade myself was brought to Europe by that ingenious Orientalist, and is the same manuscript of which he laments that he had not procured the explanation while at *Isfahan*. But as my design in the present essay relates only to the musick of *Hindoostan*, I shall proceed to mention, that among several books sent to me from that country, some, though written in the Persian language, profess to be translated from the Sanscrit, and treat of the musical modes, the *Raugs* and *Raugnees* of the *Hindus*. From these, however, so little has been borrowed in the course of the following remarks, that if any thing curious or entertaining should be found in them, the thanks of the reader will be principally due to my brother Mr. Gore Ouseley, whom a residence of several years in India has rendered perfectly acquainted with the theory and practice of *Hindu* Musick.

By him were communicated the Indian airs, and drawings of musical instruments: I can only boast of having compiled from his letters: of having deciphered (not without difficulty) the notation of the *Ramgully*, and translated a few passages from a Persian manuscript treatise on musick, which I shall mention hereafter, and for the perusal of which I am indebted to the politeness of Sir George Staunton.

On the subject of those ancient and extraordinary melodies, which the Hindus call *Raugs* and *Raugnees*, the popular traditions are as numerous and romantic, as the powers ascribed to them are miraculous. Of the six *Raugs*, the five first owe their origin to the God *Mahadeo*, who produced them from his five heads. *Parbuttee* his wife constructed the sixth; and the thirty *Raugnees* were composed by *Brimha*. Thus, of celestial invention, these melodies are of a peculiar genus: and of the three ancient genera of the Greeks resemble most the *Enharmonick*; the more modern compositions are of that species termed *Diatonick*.

A considerable difficulty is found in setting to musick the *Raugs* and *Raugnees*, as our system does not supply notes or signs sufficiently expressive of the almost imperceptible elevations and depressions of the voice in these melodies; of which the time is broken and irregular, the modulations frequent and very wild. Whatever magick was in the touch when Orpheus swept his lyre, or Timotheus filled his softly breathing flute, the effects said to have been produced by two of the six *Raugs*, are even more extraordinary than any of those ascribed to the modes of the ancients. *Mia Tonsine*, a wonderful musician in the time of king *Akbet* sung one of the *Night Raugs* at mid-day: the powers of his musick were such that it instantly became night, and the darkness extended in a circle round the palace as far as the sound of his voice could be heard.

There is a tradition, that whoever shall attempt to sing the Raug *Dheepuck* is to be destroyed by fire. The Emperor *Akber* ordered *Naik Gopaul*, a celebrated musician, to sing that *Raug*: he endeavoured to excuse

himself, but in vain; the Emperor insisted on obedience: he therefore requested permission to go home and bid farewell to his family and friends. It was winter when he returned, after an absence of six months. Before he began to sing he placed himself in the waters of the *Jumna* till they reached his neck. As soon as he had performed a strain or two the river gradually became hot; at length began to boil; and the agonies of the unhappy musician were nearly insupportable. Suspending for a moment the melody thus cruelly extorted, he sued for mercy from the Monarch, but sued in vain. *Akber* wished to prove more strongly the powers of this Raug: *Naik Gopaul* renewed the fatal song: flames burst with violence from his body, which, though immersed in the waters of the *Jumna*, was consumed to ashes!

These, and other anecdotes of the same nature, are related by many of the Hindus, and implicitly believed by some. The effect produced by the *Maig Mullaar* Raug was immediate rain. And it is told, that a singing girl once, by exerting the powers of her voice in this Raug, drew down from the clouds timely and refreshing showers on the parched rice-crops of Bengal, and thereby averted the horrors of famine from the *Paradise of Regions*. An European, in that country, inquiring after those whose musical performance might produce similar effects, is gravely told, "that the art is now almost lost; but that there are still musicians possessed of those wonderful powers in the West of India." But if one inquires in the West, they say, "that if any such performers remain they are to be found only in Bengal."

Of the present musick and the sensations it excites, one can speak with greater accuracy. "Many of the Hindu melodies" (to use the words of an excellent musician) "possess the plaintive simplicity of the Scotch and Irish, and others a wild originality, pleasing beyond description."

Counterpoint seems not to have entered, at any time, into the system of Indian Musick. It is not alluded to in the manuscript treatises which I have hitherto perused, nor have I discovered that any of our original Orientalists speak of it as being known in Hindostan. The books, however, which treat of the musick of that country are numerous and curious. Sir William Jones mentions the works of *Amin*, a musician; the *Damodara*, the *Narayan*, the *Ragarnava*, (or sea of passions;) the *Sabhavinoda* (or delight of assemblies;) the *Ragavibodha*, (or doctrine of musicial modes) the *Ratnacara*, and many other *Sanscrit* and *Hindustani* treatises. There is besides the *Raugaderpun* (or mirror of Raugs) translated into Persian by *Faker Ullah* from an Hindovee Book on the Science of Musick, called *Muncuttuhub*, compiled by order of *Man Sing, Rajah of Gualier*. The *Sungeet Derpun* (or mirror of melody) is also a Persian translation from the *Sanscrit*. To these I am enabled to add, by the kindness of the learned Baronet whom I have before mentioned, the title of another Hindovee work translated by *Deenanaut*, the son of *Bausdeheo*, into the Persian language on the first of the month *Ramazan*, in the year of the Hegira, 1137, of our æra 1724.

"An Essay on the Science of Musick, translated from the book *Paurjauthuck:* the object of which is to teach the understanding of the *Raugs* and *Raugnees*, and the playing upon musical instruments."

Oriental Collections.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

IN looking over your last month's Magazine, I see an article offered to the public, with an intent to set the character of Lawrence Sterne in a new point of view; but to those that wish not to meet an old friend with a new face, or see a character traduced, when deprived of the natural means of justifying itself, such anecdotes will, I am well convinced, afford but a poor repast. Sterne, no doubt, had his enemies as well as his friends, and most probably both in the extreme, which exquisite feelings generally produce; but can any thing now introduced, as *York scandal*, tend to prove his *want of feeling*, or set his character in a new point of view, in those

eyes that the stories of *le Fevre* and *Maria*, have met with invaluable drops of sympathy; and as Sterne is long since out of the reach of censure or praise, and the reputation of his works too well established to be either supported or shook by panegyric or criticism, I cannot see the good such publication can now do, even if unconnected with the tongue of scandal, or the eye of prejudice. This unique author, the father of sentimental writing, received his education in Cambridge university, at a large expense, and this, with a certainty of his father being an officer in the army, and both his parents of respectable families, but ill accord with the tale of his mother being a washerwoman; and as to his unnatural feelings for his only child in distress, as stated in the anecdotes alluded to, his letters to that amiable young woman, which are before the public, will say more in his favour than I can, and are the best reply to such a foul assertion. On publishing his Tristram Shandy all eyes turned on him as the genius of the age. The gay, the witty and the wise, thought it an honour to pass an evening in his company; and as a proof of the estimation Sterne was held in, I quote his introduction to Lord Bathurst, a nobleman in the most proper sense of the word, with whom he lived ever after in a state of the strictest intimacy and friendship. And I cannot pay so bad a compliment to the penetration of that patron of genius and worth, and to the public at large, as to think they took a snake to their bosoms. Meeting Sterne one day, he says, "I want to know you, Mr. Sterne, but it is fit you should know also who it is that wishes this pleasure. You have heard," continued he, "of an old Lord Bathurst, of whom your Popes and Swifts have sung and spoke so much. I have lived my life with geniuses of that cast, but have survived them, and despairing even to find their equals, it is some years since I closed my accounts, and shut up my books, with thoughts of never opening them again, but you have kindled a desire in me of opening them once more before I die, which I now do, so come home and dine with me."

I cannot pass without observation a palpable contradiction in these anecdotes. In alluding to some of Sterne's highly finished pieces they say, "A man of no feeling may succeed best in giving us a finished picture of distress," and again, "The man, however, who feels and suffers in a high degree, must express himself strongly on the subject that affects him." What are we to make of this, and how are we to apply it to the condemnation of *Poor Yorick!* May his enemies be always caught in their own snares, and may the recording angel drop a tender tear on the failings of his nature, and blot them from the book of remembrance for ever.

This versatile genius was born in Clonmel, county of Tipperary, the 24th November, 1713, and died in London, the 18th March, 1768. Garrick who was his intimate friend and admirer, wrote the following short but appropriate epitaph for him:

"Shall pride a heap of sculptur'd marble raise,
Some worthless unmourn'd titled fool to praise,
And shall we not by one poor grave-stone learn,
Where genius, wit, and humour sleep with Sterne."

A. B.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MOORISH GALLANTRY.

DURING the wars between the Moors and Christians in Spain, the queen of Castile was blocked up by the Moorish army, in the town of Azica. During the siege, she wrote in the following terms to the commander of the besiegers. "Are men of honour and knights of renown well employed in beleaguering the bower of an helpless woman? Go to Oriza, where you will find the king, who will receive you as warriors ought to be received." Struck with the reproach, the gallant Moors desired that the queen would appear on the walls; they were gratified in their request; the officers paid her a respectful homage, and the army straightway decamped for Oriza, and they were defeated by the Christian troops.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MR. EDITOR,

IN common with those of our sex who duly estimate the worth of "lovely woman," and feel happy in promoting their comfort and security, I much admire the solicitude with which your cotemporaries have at different times published such hints and instructions, as seem calculated to obviate the calamitous consequences, frequently attending the accidental communication of fire, to the clothes of women.

The horror that instantly seizes the faculties of the sufferer (and of the spectator, if possessing sensibility) when such accidents occur, proves an almost insuperable obstacle to the application of such remedies, as are naturally suggested in the absence of danger.

At this season, when the cheering influence of fire is most necessary, the chance of such accidents is consequently greater.

Although it may be hoped that the care which the ladies generally take, to preserve their complexions, should induce them to keep a due distance from strong fires, it may be useful to remind them of the necessity of that precaution, on account of the danger to which they are exposed, from the lightness of the fabrics in which the present fashion has dressed them.

The "woven winds" in which they array themselves, even when winter,

"Bars the doors wi' driving snaw,"

are extremely liable, on approaching a fire-place, to be suddenly drawn forward by the current of air which constantly rushes towards the fire.

However useful such precautions may be hoped to prove, I much fear they are far from sufficient to the *prevention* of the accidents to which they apply. These generally occur in an unguarded and unsuspecting moment, and therefore no preventives can be recommended, with hope of complete success, but such as are calculated to protect from injury, as well in the moment of forgetfulness, as of caution.

Of this description *wire screens* seem the best that can be recommended, and are certainly well adapted to prevent the shocking accidents which too frequently happen to women and children; as they admit females to approach close to a fire, whilst they effectually prevent their clothes being carried forward by the current of air.

I know not whether your Hardware shops are supplied with them, but should suppose they are, having seen them used in your neighbourhood, of nice construction. If not, I presume we have artists that could furnish them. They should be made slightly convex, and have hooks by which they may be fastened to the chimney-piece, to prevent their being pulled down by children.

By their use, parents are relieved from the incessant anxiety and watchfulness incident to the care of children, whilst in a room where there is a fire; a circumstance of itself sufficient to strongly recommend their introduction into such families as have not already provided them.

Economists may object to the expense, but that objection cannot be gracefully made by those who have it in their power to apply the remedies we have seen recommended, of rolling the suffering person in a *carpet* or *hearth-rug*, to extinguish the flame. Surely those who can afford to use such expensive articles of furniture, may well expend a much smaller sum than would purchase either, on an article which may be the means of saving them from the pressure of an "unutterable weight of woe."

That husband or parent may never experience the calamity, which these remarks are intended to prevent, is the sincere wish of B. R.

Hillsborough, 22d Dec.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON MAGAZINES.

THIS word, from its original meaning and application, carries in it the idea of a storehouse, where is deposited various and useful treasure. How far the miscellaneous publications which have assumed this name, answer to the original idea, which their prospectus promises, their contents, from one period to another, will evince.

The valuable art of printing has given scope to the human soul. Genius, passion, imagination, and reason, have displayed their powers in issuing productions, as varied in kind, as they are incalculable in number. The libraries of the world are overstocked with books, from the huge folio to the half-penny ballad, suited to gratify every taste. In such a heterogeneous mass, much extraneous matter will exist. Intellectual and moral imperfection will become more or less discoverable. Many things will be rather calculated to blind, vitiate, and lead astray, than to instruct, rectify, and guide. A Magazine then becomes necessary, to select from such a multiplicity of writings, and exhibit whatever may be best suited to promote general improvement.

A large portion of mankind are deeply involved in the cares and bustle of life. They are more or less encumbered with high rents, and heavy taxes. The dues of the church and the state, should, and must be paid. Families require constant superintendence, and their daily expenditures demand a regular supply. Under these circumstances leisure for reading will be much circumscribed; but to peruse, for a few hours in the month, what, in all its variety of materials, amounts but to a pamphlet, could make no detrimental encroachment on the season of business. To recruit the human frame, fatigued with the labours of life, to prepare for further vigorous exertion and successful execution, recreation is essential. To what amusement can attention be directed with more advantage than to that which, while it refreshes the body, invigorates the mind?

Many large and elaborate literary works contain but few ideas. Some authors have attended to embellishment more than matter, and endeavoured to please the ear with musical sentences, and well rounded periods, rather than the understanding with substantial sentiment. Others display much dexterity in the art of dilation; barren in thoughts, proficients in verbosity, ambitious of making a book, they comprehend *parvum in multo*. Many large volumes of this description might be compressed into the small bounds of a few pages. It is presumed that a Magazine is understood to be limited to a certain size, and seldom carries any of its topicks beyond the limits of two or three numbers. Being a miscellany, it must contain considerable variety. Reason will demand that every subject introduced should receive some kind of complete discussion. A croud of correspondents, a multiplicity of passing events, an active world, and growing science will produce a press of materials. These will cut off all occasion of perplexity, and temptation to circumlocution; naturally lead to reject every thing superfluous and less important; and to comprise in the smallest intelligible bounds, the quintescence of information.

Though men participate of one common nature, completely homogeneous in its leading features; they yet widely differ in taste, dispositions, attachments, intellectual capacity, modes of thinking, and strength of imagination. The nearer that minds approximate to a similarity of powers, the better are they qualified to unite together; and, in their several operations, reciprocally please and instruct each other. From these premises it will follow, that, those writings must be most entertaining, one of whose prominent features is variety; and that any one author will most successfully please and instruct that reader whose soul bears the nearest resemblance to his own. That a Magazine or Gazette, not being the production of one mind, as most books are, but of many, is consequently calculated to entertain as many, and though there are other publications of the miscellaneous kind, yet, if written by an individual, they will please no more than a single class of readers having souls of similar construction. Moreover, the work that has been compiled from many good authors, or has been composed by a company, is yet vastly inferior to the Magazine, in the important consideration of not being a *periodical* miscellany. But why so much inferior? Answer, because man has such an unlimited curiosity, and insatiable taste for novelty, that, he has no sooner feasted upon, and digested one course of varied literary entertainment, than he is disposed to gratify his mental appetite with another.

A Magazine takes a retrospect of past times; it revives those valuable things that were ready to perish by the lapse of time, preserves from destruction and annihilation what was subjected to the corroding rust of antiquity, or about to be lost in the mist of distance; presents again and again, with no unnecessary repetition, those important subjects that ought to be kept alive in the world. It explores the treasures of ancient learning, and selects what is worthy of being modernised, and adapted to present purposes. It is a free and public stage, upon which imagination, wit, and taste may exhibit their fascinating powers; where genius may display his inventions and refined improvements; where learning is invited to figure in all her arts and eloquence, and common sense to perform for the pleasure and improvement of the promiscuous multitude.

A Magazine travels abroad for the patriotic purpose of making practical observation upon the transactions of the world, and importing whatever may promote the prosperity and happiness of that region which gave it birth, and by which it expects to be cherished. It resides at home to improve the agriculture, enrich the fields, and promote the fertility of its native soil; to ameliorate the condition of cheerless poverty, to encrease and enlarge commerce, improve trade and manufactures, to support the independence and national spirit of the country, polish its manners, improve its morals, and eventually advance the public good.

As the nation's official servant, it notes and records important passing events, as revolving time presents them to view. It watches the motions, and stimulates to repel the aggressions of foreign and domestic foes. It guards against damping the spirits, or injuring the health and vigour of the nation; by depicting her as distressed with evils that are only imaginary, or by giving gloomy exaggerations of those that are real. Danger is pointed out but with the view of urging her to meet it with stability and heroism. Her disabilities and grievances are delineated for the purpose of obtaining reform and redress; solely by the influence of reason, and the prevalent claims of justice. Caution is ever exercised against kindling and cherishing in her bosom that blind zeal and party-spirit, which scatter around them fire-brands, arrows and death. Disaffection and libertine phrenzy are not permitted to disseminate their inflammatory libels against peace, liberty, and good order; even though they should come forward under the specious mask of disinterested patriotism and public spirit.

Where a critical review of new publications is admitted, it unquestionably forms an important item in the contents of a Magazine. In the impartial and judicious management of criticism every author receives his due; whether he be an eminent personage, or one moving in an humble sphere, coincide with the critics peculiar sentiments and prejudices, or differ from them. A gratifying tribute of praise is paid to genuine merit; ignorance and insolence are exposed; what is injurious, worthless, or of immoral tendency is stigmatised as infamous. The wheat is separated from the chaff, froth and rubbish are swept away, and worth preserved; sterling coin is distinguished from what is counterfeit, and an attempt made to discover that alloy which intermingles with the purest metals. An opportunity is given for the advanced and aspiring student, to gain instruction upon the needful subject of English composition. The public are preserved from wasting their money upon those publications, or spending precious time in perusing those that are false in their theory, or vicious in their contents and design; or that are replenished with emptiness, though they should be addressed to the world, under the artful disguise of splendid gilding, and pompous titles, or recommended by great names. Petty scribblers, with all their affected cant of despising criticism, become afraid to peep from obscurity, while talent is called to exertion, encouraged, and crowned with honour.

Ballynahinch. S. E.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

I AM as unwilling to occupy much of your pages with controversy, as you can be to admit me; for I greatly dislike the spirit of controversy, and

have seldom found good effects, or the convincement of an opponent, to result from it. I write to clear myself from some misrepresentations of Criticus in your last number. I pass, without further reprehension, his concluding paragraph, in which he attempts to school me, in terms sufficiently dogmatical, for reasoning on complex ideas. But I particularly object to his unfairness in questioning my motives, which he considers as only *apparently* on the side of justice and liberality. In my former letter, I took up my pen really on that side: I blamed an error hostile to the Catholics, and was a sincere advocate in the cause of justice. My political creed as connected with theology, is a short one: I think no man should be questioned for his religious opinions, or suffer any political disabilities on account of them. Actions only are cognizable by the state. Actuated by these sentiments, I am a sincere and unequivocal friend to Catholic emancipation. I can excuse the irritability of Criticus, in mistaking a friend for an enemy, in the same manner as I would pardon a man who had been ill used in a crowd, and who gave me a blow, because I was the first person with whom he met afterwards; and to this very circumstance, which I previously supposed might possibly occur, I alluded when I spoke of "the passions of the two opposite parties." I wish that my Catholic brethren should enjoy every political right in its fullest extent: having no inclination to encroach on their right of private judgment, I claim the same for myself; if I think they have prejudices, I would not like to flatter them, but speak my sentiments in the spirit of free discussion. For I think a too common error in politics, lies, in going with one party or other in all their prejudices, and because we see cause on the whole to join on one side of the question, on that account to enter into a defence of all the collateral branches connected with it. Criticus altogether mistakes me, if he supposes I desire the King to be invested with any power over the nomination of the Catholic Bishops. I object as well to the interference of the King as of the Pope, and I am pleased to find that Criticus confirms me in the opinion, that there is nothing in the plan I mentioned inconsistent with the ancient strict canonical mode of their church. A numerous body of Catholics in England, at the head of whom was the late Lord Petre, and the late highly respectable and enlightened Dr. Geddes, strongly advocated this mode a few years ago, and exposed themselves to much censure from the bigoted party on this very account.

To enliven the dryness of a controversial reply, I shall give a quotation from a respectable work lately published,* the author of which is a Catholic, to show the ancient manner of that church appointing its Bishops. It probably may be new to some of your readers, and convey acceptable information to them. "The right of nominating to Bishopricks was finally settled, in Germany, by the Concordate of 1447, which confirmed the election of Bishops to the chapters exercising that right; in France, by the Concordate of 1516, which vested the nomination to Bishopricks, and the collation of certain benefices of the higher class, in the Kings of France; in Spain, by prescription, repeatedly allowed by the Popes, under which the Kings have uninterruptedly exercised the right of nominating Bishops, and in England, by the charter of King John, recognized and confirmed by his great charter, and by the 25th of Edward the third, Stat. 6. §. 3, which gave up to the Chapters the free right of electing their Prelates."

CENSOR.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN your Magazine for September, your Correspondent, I.P. asserts that the premium on Gold, and the unfavourable exchange prove that bank paper, has suffered a depreciation, and in support of this opinion, he quotes Lord Lauderdale and other eminent writers on the subject. "That the

* Notes on the Revolutions of the German Empire, by Charles Butler; an interesting and valuable work, published in London, 1807.

difference between Gold and Paper, arises from the depreciation of the paper through the imprudence of bankers in the extravagant issue of bank notes," the evil tendency of which, is as I. P. says, "to force trade beyond the demands which support it, promote undue speculation, raise the price of manufacturing, cause a dearth of provisions, and subject the ignorant and poorer classes of the people to the chance of forgery." But with all due deference to such high authority, I am disposed to think that the difference between Gold and paper, and the unfavourable exchange may arise from other causes, and that the national paper may be found not to have suffered any depreciation whatever. The constant drain from this country, of the rents of absentee Landlords, and the comparatively small value of our exports, appear to me sufficiently to account for the high rate of exchange between England and Ireland, and if this did not appear previous to the restriction of the bank, it was owing to the facility of making payments in gold, which acted as a check on exchange, while the bank was obliged to procure a constant supply at its own expense; but the moment it became relieved from this obligation, exchange started to its real size, and gold required a premium. The unsettled state of affairs on the continent, making gold of greater value there, would in a similar way occasion the unfavourable foreign exchange, and the premium of 2¼ per cent, which I. P. says was paid for gold in London.

As a circulating medium, gold has the advantage of greater durability, and is perhaps less liable to be counterfeited, being more easily detected; in other respects, paper seems to be altogether as convenient for the purposes of commerce, and has the advantages of being of very little value, easily created, and always at hand to supply the wants of trade, in any quantity which may be required, while by employing gold, a larger portion of the produce of the country which goes to procure it, remains as dead unproductive stock, withdrawn from the useful capital of the country, and is liable to be occasionally carried abroad, leaving a too scanty circulation, which could not always be speedily supplied.

The illiberality of bankers in confining their accommodation and of course their issue of paper has often been complained of, but it is scarcely to be believed that they will act "imprudently or improvidently" towards themselves, they are not likely to give their paper without sufficient value or security, nor are traders likely to take at interest more than they have occasion to employ; thus the quantity in circulation, can seldom be too great, and must soon regulate itself. Nor can I agree with I. P. in the evils he apprehends. If trade is by any means forced beyond the demands which support it, or undue speculation undertaken, the remedy attends, and will soon reduce both within proper bounds, and the effects of raising the price of manufactures, and enhancing the price of the necessaries of life, I rather consider as advantages, the consequence of flourishing commerce, which adds to the conveniences and comforts of the most useful class of mankind, by encouraging industry, and encreasing the value of labour, hence arise ingenious contrivances to abridge it, and the progressive improvement of our manufactures.

The sudden stagnation of trade, must unavoidably produce much inconvenience and distress, but perhaps paper does not any more than gold, tend to increase this evil, further than as it promotes and cherishes commerce, proportional to the extent of which, must be the inconvenience attending the sudden interruption of it.

I do not wish to take up too much of your room, and only venture these few remarks, in hopes that they may help to lead to the discussion of this subject of general interest, others better qualified for it than your humble servant A MANUFACTURER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN your Magazine for September last, you have inserted (page 26) an extract from "Rawson's Survey of Kildare," professedly intended to

prove the superiority of the drill culture of Potatoes, over that of the lazy-bed one; it appears to me, that it shows the direct contrary. The extract, or the work itself, is I presume incorrect; it credits the lazy-bed process, with only one acres' produce, and debits it with eight acre's expense; correct this, and I trust my assertion will be evinced—thus

Dr. Lazy-bed process.			
To expenses on eight acres,	23	13	4
Bal. profit, ...	176	6	8
	£200	0	0
Cr.			
By produce of eight acres	200	0	0
	£200	0	0
Dr. drill process.			
To expenses on eight acres,	27	11	4
Bal. profit	168	8	8
	£196	0	0
Cr.			
By produce of eight acres.	196	0	0
	£196	0	0
Comparison,			
Profit on lazy-bed process	176	6	8
Do. on drill do.	168	8	8
Profit, more by Lazy-bed than by drill.	£7	18	0

I will endeavour to ascertain the better mode, and inform you of the result if you wish it. If you can prevail on the gentlemen farmers of this country, to send you the account of their experiments and novel practises, you will by communicating them, render an essential service to the community, and may do as much towards promoting the interest of the plough in this kingdom, as my friend and late neighbour, the great Arthur Young, has done in that way, in England. If I might take the liberty of recommending, it would be, that you reject all anonymous communications. Mr. Young in his "Annals of Agriculture" set out with that determination, and while he stuck to it the work was in high repute, and had a ready sale, but the moment he departed from it, the work and the art it was intended to benefit, suffered considerably. I am, sir your obedient servant. WM. GOOCH.

Castle-Upton, Jan. 9th, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

I FULLY agree with your correspondent A. Z. in reprobating the system of dividing farms for the sake of multiplying votes, to be enrolled as *so many cattle*, to increase the interest of a landlord at an election; but I materially differ from him, as to the want of comfort possessed by the occupiers of small farms. I have in one of the commercial reports expressed my sentiments on that subject, before I saw his paper. I have now only to add, that I think the instances quoted by his friend, of the years of scarcity, 1800 and 1801, ought to be viewed as exceptions to the general rule. The cause of scarcity in those years is to be traced to the deficient harvest of 1799, which owing to the lateness of the spring, and the wet of the summer and harvest, failed in producing the usual supplies, so that the stocks of the small farmers were soon consumed by their own families, and they were altogether dependent on the market for their provisions afterwards; and having their usual rent and taxes to pay, they were in these years in a worse situation than many of their neighbours, who occupied no land. But this case I apprehend was an exception to the general rule, for in the course of my experience among working people, particularly as the proprietor of a bleach-green, I have uniformly found that those who occupied a few acres of ground lived more comfortably than those who had only a house and small garden. As an employer I may have had cause sometimes to complain that my work may have suffered through their attention to their own business, but I am satisfied that they and their families were rendered more comfortable by the possession of their little allotment of land. What humane employer would not be willing to abate something of his own advantage, to promote the happiness of those employed by him? Though in this case, and also in the worse management of their farms there may be a deduction from the stock of national wealth, yet any drawback of this kind is, in my estimation, more than compensated by the increased comforts attending the system of small farms.

If A. Z's friend had viewed the wretchedness of the inmates of some of the poor houses in the bye-lanes, and of some of the lodging houses in the principal streets of Lisburn, at that period,

as some others did, he would probably have changed his opinion on the comparative advantage of the poor dwelling in towns. Of all pitiable situations, I consider the poor of towns to suffer most, and probably their sufferings are generally increased in proportion to the size of the towns. For the justness of this assertion, I appeal to that part of Dublin called the Liberty, and to St. Giles, and similar places in London, where, in addition to the usual miseries of poverty, the want of fresh air, the contagion of disease, and the no less baneful influence of bad example form an aggregate of evils distressing to humanity. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

YOU have so readily inserted my former strictures upon the Commercial Report of your first number, and your Reporter has replied in a tone so calm and temperate, that I am convinced he is an advocate for free discussion; this has induced me to offer some more observations on this important subject, the Circulation of Paper Money.

This writer alledges in his reply, that the difference in our opinions arises from the circumstance, that my view of the subject is from books, and his in the "school of experience, where practical lessons are given on the subject, the 'Change of Belfast;" but to this I would answer, that it is by books we should make the experience of others our own, and we are informed, that in every country where Banknotes have circulated (not convertible into specie) bankruptcy has followed. Those countries read us practical lessons in the school of experience, by which we should learn wisdom. This system of pushing guineas out of circulation is not of great antiquity in any country; and on the Belfast 'Change, it is an innovation which has been recommended, but not yet put into practice; therefore, it is too soon to speak by experience there. I have no doubt but the merchant has experienced great difficulty in procuring gold upon change, and he is apt to complain, that the *discount is a heavy tax upon trade; that guineas are tools in the hands of money-jobbers;* but he should consider that by putting down this kind of jobbing, he raises up another of a much more dangerous kind, that is, the new fashion of conducting banks, which are so many mints for coining of paper-money. The merchant who wishes to free himself from paying the discount on gold, as a tax upon trade, should consider that a reduction in the value of money, and an advance in the price of produce, are synonimous terms, or in other words, that the goods which he exports must go much dearer to market, when the circulating medium is increased in quantity, and consequently depreciated. When it is in the power of bankers to emit as much as they please of this easy coinage, they possess great advantages over the other members of the community, they can sweep the gold into their own coffers, they can assist those who are inclined to over-trading, which injures the community at large. The banker who receives a discount for the use of his paper, has been compared, by a late writer, to the keeper of a gaming-table, and the frequency of the transaction is represented as absorbing the floating wealth of the country. The profit of the bankers consists in the extent of their paper issues, by this means their gains and the benefit of the public has been considered to be at variance, they bring the public under a heavy contribution annually, the interest of the circulating medium. This annuity has been estimated at a million and a half in England, what it amounts to in this country would be difficult to calculate, but it has increased, is encreasing, and ought to be diminished; by the disuse of guineas, and the establishment of so great a number of banks, this annuity will be augmented. When we recollect that the national bank in a short space of time, after it withheld its payment in specie quintupled its quantity of notes, we may expect that the quantity in circulation in a few years more will be truly alarming; this bears hard upon those who have a stated income, it places the necessaries of life beyond the reach of honest industry; it will add to the wealth of the wealthy, but its tendency is to beggar the multitude; hence it is,

that it has been observed in England, that the alms-houses and work-houses, rise by the side of the palace, although taxation has had a considerable share in causing this evil, yet a depreciated paper currency has contributed greatly to the same end; and in the British metropolis, it appears by a calculation that was made some time ago, that the number of the poor amounted to eight in an hundred of the population: although the erection of houses for public charity increases daily, yet they never keep pace with the progress of indigence and misery. In the Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, we perceive the following observation, "the poors-rate is the barometer, which marks in all the apparent sunshine of prosperity, the progress of internal weakness and debility, and as trade and manufactures are extended, as our commerce encircles the terraqueous globe, it encreases with a fecundity most astonishing; it grows with our growth, and augments with our strength; its root, according to our present system, being laid in the vital source of our existence and prosperity."

Through the medium of the Belfast News-papers we are informed that the number of beggars daily increases, notwithstanding the different charitable Institutions for the provision of the poor; and in the course of last summer, the Sovereign and many of the principal inhabitants of Belfast, addressed the Lord Lieutenant about the high price of provisions. Will not the increase of notes from three new banks, cause an addition to the evils complained of? I do not expect that the tears of helpless infants, crying for bread will prevent the bankers from carrying on their lucrative employment, but the public should not assist in the circulation of provincial bank paper, when there is more than enough already, afloat from the national bank. The earl of Liverpool, in a recent publication, addressed to the King, says "that certain descriptions of paper currency have, from a thirst for gain been carried on by many, and a love of speculation been defended by others, to an extravagant and dangerous extent." As this nobleman enjoys the confidence of his majesty, no doubt his advice will be attended to in this instance, as it has been on many important matters. If his lordship and others of his majesty's counsellors, during Mr. Pitt's administration, had duly weighed this danger, it would have been well for these countries.

That minister procured an indirect repeal of the provision of the fifth of William and Mary, by which the bank was prohibited from lending to government, without the authority of parliament; this was one of the many statutes which he got enacted, to increase the influence of the crown, at the expense of the constitution. Engaged in a war, which to use the words of Mr. Fox, originated from an inveterate hatred to liberty, he drew the gold out of the bank, and transported it to the Continent. He disregarded the sound maxims of Dr. Adam Smith, one of which is, that a "prince, anxious to maintain his dominions in a state at all times, in which he can most easily defend them, ought to guard against that excessive multiplication of paper money, which fills the greater part of the circulation of the country with it. An unsuccessful war, for example, in which the enemy got possession of the capital, and consequently of that treasure which supported the credit of the paper money, would occasion much greater confusion in a country where the whole circulation was carried on by paper, than in one where the greater part of it was carried on by gold and silver: the prince would not have wherewithal to pay his troops, or to furnish his magazines." The merchant who is anxious for laying aside guineas, should pay attention to the following observation, "that commerce and industry are not so secure when they are suspended on the Daedalian wings of paper money, as when they travel about upon the solid ground of gold and silver." The Wealth of Nations has been considered by some of the best critics as one of the most valuable publications of the last century, but the writer of the Commercial Report says that I attach more importance than he is willing to allow to those whom he calls closet theorists, such as Lords King and Lauderdale, Messrs. Foster and Parnell. He informs us that time has discovered some of their theoretical

reasonings to be fallacious, as he finds them attributing the high course of exchange in Dublin, which was then at 17½ to 18½ per cent, to the excessive issue of bank paper, when now with a more extensive issue, it has not for a considerable time generally exceeded 10 per cent, and is at present about 8½ per cent; but he should recollect that at the time exchange was so high, the discount on notes was a great deal higher than it is at present. The alarm of invasion had the same effect here, which he says caused a premium on gold in England, and it must be admitted that these writers allowed that other causes operated to cause a variation in the rates of exchange, a balance of debt; this depends upon whatever country is debtor or creditor. In the debtor country the bills on the creditor country will be scarce, and of course, dear; the supply, as Mr. Foster expresses it, being universal as the demand; so that the state of exports, imports, and the number of absentees varies the state of exchange. This balance of debt has a known invariable limit, which is the expense of transmitting gold from one country to another, which Mr. Foster calculates at 2 per cent, and he says, that there has been annually a balance in favour of this country, of more than half a million, at the time that exchange was so high, so that a depreciation of notes must have caused the high exchange.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE TEN DAYS OF HAPPINESS.

THE following Narrative cannot fail of being acceptable to all lovers of Eastern learning; it is translated from an inestimable MS. in the Coptic tongue, found in the gallery of the great Pyramid at Cairo, by the Abbe Mirleton. The facts which it records throws new light upon a well known character, deservedly accounted the greatest of all the successors of Mahomet.

On a fine summer evening, towards the end of the month Ramdan, the Caliph Haroun al Raschid, attended by Giafar, his Vizir, and Mesrour, his chief Eunuch, all in disguise, took boat at the bridge of Bagdad. It is not unknown to the learned, that this Caliph was wont frequently to take such rambles. He ordered the waterman to row them two miles up the Tigris; "We'll go visit," said he, "Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, the Philosopher. I am of opinion that philosophy is a very pretty pastime, when one is tired of tennis and cricket." Accordingly they landed at the garden of Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, and found that famous man, preparing a bed for cucumbers, with straw and the dung of asses. He received them very philosophically, tossing his spade and bespattering them with his compost. "Friend Haroun," quoth he to the Caliph, "thou knowest I have no high opinion of thy noddle. I have more than once told thee so, civilly as in duty bound; for philosophy teacheth us humility and courtesy; the happiest hour of thy reign, was that in which I first condescended to honour thee with my familiarity; thou hast gained more sound knowledge from my conversation, than from the sermons of all the Imams in Bagdad; thou hast not in thy court my equal." "Except Aboul Junker, the rope dancer," said the Caliph, "I know none." "Sacred pigeon of our holy Prophet," cried Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, "let us not waste our most precious time in vain gabbling; here are idle spades; Commander of the Faithful, first of the human race, deign to take one. Believe me, your famous sword, Samsamah, with which you subdued so many nations, is not in the eye of philosophy a more estimable weapon; Giafar, thou shadow of majesty, here is another for thee; prime ministers have no right to disdain dirty work; and most venerable Eunuch, lo! a third for thee; thou art thyself but a most miserable vegetable, do what little good thou canst in thy generation.

The Caliph smiling, took the spade, his officers though not smiling, followed his example. For some minutes they tossed the dung about, silently and aukwardly. The Caliph little accustomed to the tasks of horticulture, soon felt his wind fail; and leaning on his spade, spoke thus to the philosopher, "I suppose, learned sir, you mean to give us a practical illustra-

BRAESHAW COLL. LIBRARY

tion of our Prophet's infallible doctrine, that human happiness consists in action?" Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, answered and said, "Human happiness, what is that? I have travelled over all the East, but never saw it. At Aleppo, I conversed with two travellers, who boasted of having explored the Northern regions; one of them affirmed, that he had seen men perfectly happy; another made oath that he had handled a red hot snow ball. I took a staff and belaboured them both soundly. I sojourned for a season at the court of Seged, Lord of Ethiopia. A whim struck him of being completely happy on an island in the Lake of Dembea: he took every possible precaution for producing that blessed effect; yet those ten days brought forth nothing but vexation and misery; you shall hear how. On the first day"—"Body of me," quoth the Caliph, "after delving in asses' dung till I am out of breath, do you think I shall listen patiently to the history of ten miserable days? a pretty philosopher truly! besides, I know the story already, and I know moreover, that it shall be published to the world, in a language called English, by a man named Samuel Johnson, about the year of the Hegira 930, if Allah allows our world to exist so long. Do not marvel at my prophesying so punctually. Am not I the representative of the great Prophet?" "Be that as it may" replied Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung, "I hold the attempt of Seged to have been presumptuous and absurd, and I hope it will be a warning to all succeeding generations; that no man hereafter may, presume to say, this day shall be a day of happiness." "Aye," said the Caliph, "and here is Mesrour, who to my knowledge, hath attended to your philosophical discourses these three years, yet is no philosopher; and I hope it shall be a warning to all succeeding generations, that no man may hereafter presume to say, I will be a philosopher. Darii, Ferio, Baralipton! what sort of argument call you this, with regard to the disappointment of Seged, in his scheme of happiness? I can only say, that good and bad luck are dealt about after such measures as neither you nor I can fathom. He projected for himself ten happy days, and each of them failed; why then lament, therefore? but this woful tale concerns not me; 'tis past and gone. Futurity is to us a non-entity; we may carve it out as we please—and I this moment declare—that in spite of Seged and all his lamentations, I will be happy for ten days to come."

"Very well," said the Philosopher, "and pray what scheme do you propose for to-morrow's happiness?" "None?" replied the Caliph, "scheming was the rock on which your friend Seged wrecked his venture of felicity. He conceived projects; they miscarried, and he was miserable. I will transfer the toil of invention, and the chagrin of disappointment to others. Giafar, be it your charge to advertise my trusty friends, Isaac Ben Phiddal and Jacob Ben Bottal, of my purpose. Let them be constituted masters of revels for the ten ensuing days." "Nonsense," cried the philosopher, "if you will not listen to sound reasoning let us try, what *sound reasoning* can do. I bought a boy the other day from a rascally grinning Jew. What ho! Arassid; he sings well, and tickles a lute right cunningly. Now I have given him a song to conn, quite suitable to our present topic. I love mightily, and upon every occasion, to rail at this world and all things in it." Arassid then approaching with a timid and diffident air, seated himself on a green bank, and having played some flourishes on his lute, warbled with infinite grace these verses:

DELUSIVE all and vain are human joys,
The young unhappy Selim sighing said,
As to the midnight sky he raised his voice,
Wild wandering in a dark and heathy glade.
What is there real to man, alas! but pain!
And what of joy that proves not false and vain.

This soul, the breath of heaven within us plac'd,
That moves and feels all o'er our wondrous frame,
With energies divine enriched and grac'd,
Why could it never yet remain the same?

Eager each bliss in nature's bounds to drain,
And then to spurn them all, as false and vain.

Heroes, and ye that drench the world in blood,
Conquerors, enamour'd of bright empire's blaze,
That gleams through clouds afar in frantic mood,
Wasting in fields of toil your noblest days,
Soon, though ye grasp the universal rein,
Soon will ye, weeping, quit a task so vain.

See yon gay travellers, in the massy hall,
Secure from night and storm, all decked in smiles;
For wine, for jest, and song, by turns they call,
But varied luxury all thought beguiles;
And if by chance another day they gain,
With rueful face they'll curse their orgies vain.

Sunk on a couch of silk, Zemindar lies,
On Zara's bosom lull'd, clasped in her arms,
He wakes to transports new, he fiercely flies,
And rifles unopposed her glowing charms:
Sure that is bliss—let him but sleep again,
And waking he'll confess this false and vain.

Ev'n ye who boast this passion to refine,
From the low dregs of gross mortality,
Who dream of pants, and sympathies divine,
Th' angelic feeling, and respondent sigh,
Still the same grov'ling period must obtain,
Made by your art more exquisitely vain.

The sage that weighs the stars in his proud thought,
And to their circling worlds of light gives law,
Quick from that daring flight, by hunger brought,
Obeys the cravings of his carnal maw.
To pye and pudding, from th' Etherial plain,
How vast the fall, and the ascent how vain.

Yet wisdom, love, wine, glory, each poor wight,
That treads this earth, infatuate must pursue;
Blest only when the race is done, when night,
The night of death, removes them from the view,
To shades where sleep and sweet oblivion reign,
Unbroken by such hollow phantoms vain.

Blest moment, that shall wrap my heart in peace,
By hope and disappointment torn no more,
When this flat, stale, dull, scene to me shall cease,
And I some happier region may explore;
Not the vast globe itself could tempt me then,
To tread once more a tract so false and vain.

During the song, the Caliph showed no small emotion, and gazed with eagerness on the tuneful Arassid. At the conclusion he said to the philosopher, "your boy is a delightful creature. He is qualified to sing in Paradise; and if I find no worse there I assure you I hope for no better. Never before did I hear an air so enchanting, set to such good for nothing verses; so my faithful friend, good night." The philosopher conducted his visitors to the river's bank, and promising to be at court next morning, with a solemn benediction, bade them adieu.

As they rowed gently down the Tigris, the Caliph raved about the singer Arassid; his supple attendants echoed his opinion, in the language of exaggerated and fulsome adulation; which far from pleasing him, seemed nauseous and disgusting, when he compared it with the familiar address, and unrestrained contradictions of honest Ebn Mulish.

When he arrived at the palace, the night was far advanced; he immediately retired to his chamber and ascending the alcove, wished for profound sleep, but he wished in vain. The song he had heard, and the singer, perpetually haunted his fancy. He made the signal for the musicians in the antichamber to play, hoping their soft strains, as they had often done, would lull him to repose. This expedient produced no better effect; the softest touch of their lutes seemed harsh, the silver wires of their harps, scarce trembling, brayed rough in his ear; and the song, though one which before had enchanted him, now only enchanted by recalling to his

mind, the voice of Arassid. He commanded them to cease; and was about to deliver himself a prey to chagrin, when he suddenly reflected that he possessed within himself a power of self-accommodation, and that in the conscious possession of this power more than in all his state, his own superiority consisted. "Shall I," said he, "imitate the silly girl, who the other day, cried herself into a fever for the loss of a nightingale! Except the divine Zorayma, whom I heard on the banks of the Teflis and whom I never can forget, Arassid certainly excels all mortals. But a singer more or less shall not break the repose of Al Raschid." This happy reflection induced a pleasing self-complacency, which was quickly followed by refreshing sleep. He was waked by a loud noise in the antichamber, caused by a contention for the mastery between Isaac Ben Phiddal, and Jacob Ben Bottal, each claiming the right of regulating the happiness of the day, and each proposing a different scheme.

The arguments with which they supported their respective rights of priority, made the Caliph laugh heartily. He forthwith summoned the whole court to attend in the great council hall, and ordered the contending parties to plead their cause at large. The previous question, who should plead first was determined by lot, in favour of Isaac Ben Phiddal. That eloquent gentleman then held forth his right of precedence, in a speech of five hours and forty minutes: at the conclusion of which, Jacob Ben Bottal, being called upon to reply, was found fast asleep. After yawning and stretching himself, he pronounced emphatically these words, "brethren let us go to dinner." The hall resounded with a thousand shouts of applause, and every voice proclaimed the victory of Ben Bottal. The morning thus passed happily, because busily; a day of employment can hardly be unhappy.

The Caliph passed the night calmly, though not without a dream of Arassid. He fancied he saw that youth, in a woman's dress, singing and playing an air of most bewitching tenderness; his brow bound with roses, and his eyes sparkling with pleasure. The lovely vision eluded his grasp, vanished with a smile, and left him half-waking in voluptuous melancholy. He arose, and according to custom, went to prayers. As he returned from the mosque, he was astonished to hear an inconceivable variety of musical sounds at once fill the air; he looked around and saw his attendants, his guards, the people in the streets, in the windows, and on the house tops, all performing on musical instruments. He turned to enquire of Giafar what this meant, and beheld that able statesman grinning ruefully, and twanging a Jew's-harp between his teeth. He next applied to Mesrour; the Eunuch answered by a flourish on a child's whistle; Ben Phiddal played on a rebeck; Ben Bottal on a rebible, and the Philosopher Ebn Mulish himself sounded a mighty ram's horn; in short he heard cornets, sackbuts, dulcimers, marrow-bones and cleavers, psalteries, tambours-de-basso, and piano-fortes, nor could he divine the cause of this musical uproar, till he reached the gate of the palace and perceived an edict which Isaac Ben Phiddal had fixed there; importing that whoever during nine days, should appear in the presence of the Caliph, without playing on some instrument of music, should be set in the stocks; the absurdity of this device amused him for a while. In the evening, having previously sent to take down Ben Phiddal's edict, he supped in public with the court; contentment and good humour presiding over the repast. This night, in a dream, he saw Zorayma, the Circassian princess, of whom three years before he had been deeply enamoured. She appeared more beautiful than ever, but with her former coldness rejected his vows, even when in the ardour of passion, he offered her the rank of sole Sultana. She told him that she could not be; for though he took her for a princess, she was in fact no more than the daughter of his friend Ebn Mulish Ben Hoost Ben Hobal Fung. At this whimsical information he burst out a laughing, and awoke. Jacob Ben Bottal now took his turn, as president of the third day's pleasure; he being a man of profound thought,

was much puzzled what course to take, he had risen early, and seating himself on a bench, by the gate of the palace, entered into profound meditation, in which he continued for many hours without coming to any certain result. His mind was wholly divided between two plans, whether he should order the most famous orators and poets to entertain the public by a display of their talents, or issue an edict commanding the whole court to engage in a general game of blind-man's buff. The Caliph whose disposition was naturally gelastic, being informed of this important decision, almost split his sides laughing. Composing himsel by degrees, he went into a balcony to behold the sport, which was exhibited in the inner court, and continued, with uninterrupted expressions of satisfaction until sunset. On the fourth morning, Isaac Ben Phiddal undertook a magnificent plan of happiness. He proposed that the Caliph should make a triumphal progress through the city, accompanied by the chief personages of the court, but especially by Ben Phiddal himself, who should be the principal figure in the procession; he affirmed that such a show would make all the shopkeepers and petty artizans completely happy; and of consequence communicate by reflection, the most supreme delight to the Commander of the Faithful himself; accordingly this parade began immediately after noon prayers. The Caliph rode first on a mule, Ben Phiddal followed in a superb litter, from whence he declaimed to the people on each side, standing up, extending his arms and exhorting them to be as happy as he was. Along two or three streets he continued this mode of exhortation, still affirming strongly that he himself was happy, and perhaps many people believed him: but at length the vehemence of his affirmation seemed to abate, his voice faultered, and divers uncouth contortions took place in his countenance. He sat down wriggling and fidgeting; a furlong further, he owned he was unhappy; three yards more he roared that he was miserable. The procession now ended. The hero descended from his litter, bolted into the back yard of a caravansera and disappeared. The Caliph was at first alarmed, but observing Ben Bottal tittering aside, and recollecting that he had seen him give his rival a glass of Sherbet, just before they set out, he presently comprehended the matter. The misery of Ben Phiddal had a speedy and happy conclusion; he soon returned, but refused to renew his parade, and retired in dudgeon to his apartment in the palace. He had now no other employment but to contemplate the innumerable casualties which lie in ambush on every side to intercept the happiness of man, and break in upon the hour of tranquillity and delight. But his private calamity proved a public advantage, and furnished matter of merry speculation for the remainder of the evening. Next day for lack of better invention, Ben Bottal resumed his abandoned design of exhibiting the orators and poets. For the encouragement of candidates, hé proposed prizes of value, withal reserving to himself the office of supreme judge. After a vast number of competitors had displayed their abilities; Ben Bottal assigned the prize of rhetoric to a man, who possessed the astonishing faculty of communicating his sentiments on the most abstruse subjects, though born dumb; and the poetical prize he awarded to a cobler, whose verses were indeed very indifferent, but it was proved that he had written them with the point of his awl. This cobling poet received his reward with the most ridiculous affectation of dignity, saying, "I pocket your money, but I care not a fig for your patronage; I was bred to the last, and am independent." In the evening the Caliph reclined on a sofa, amusing himself with the sage decisions of Ben Bottal, when the philosopher Ebn Mulish entered the chamber. "Welcome, Doctor," said the Caliph, "you see we come happily on." "O yes," said Ebn Mulish, "half your time is past, but yet you have no reason to exult. Reflect how much of your happiness has resulted from the follies and absurdities of our fellow-creatures; reflect how much more of it has resulted from mere chance, then tell me what part of it you can call your own work?" "The causes of happiness," replied the Caliph,

"or of pleasure, which is the same thing, will seldom bear a minute scrutiny; I shall be satisfied with myself if I can make the best of things as they occur, without diving in search of unnecessary knowledge. Life, says the great prophet is a stream; if so, let me be a cork or feather, let me slip merrily down the dancing waves, and kiss every flower that blooms on the margin: better thus, than like a block or stone, roll along below, tumbling in cold and darkness." At these words, Ebn Mulish threw his arms around the Caliph's neck, and in a tone of solicitude, asked, if no unsatisfied wish had disturbed his five days' happiness. "Ah! yes, I wished for Arassid and I dreamed of Zorayma!" The philosopher stept to the door, and returned leading the lovely apparition which had haunted Al Raschid's dreams—"Here is Arassid—here is Zorayma! take her from a father's hand, I hope she will secure the remaining five days of happiness. Be not amazed noble prince the: Sultan of Circassia, hid in this disguise, has long studied your character. I saw your attachment to my daughter with pleasure, but wished to know the man thoroughly who should possess Zorayma; with her I took a secret journey, and settled near your court, forcing myself by affected bluntness on your notice. Now I know you, and once more take her. But O! Al Raschid, let not this vast accession of felicity disturb that happy, that philosophic serenity which I see you possess. Never think of yourself independently; nor dream, that because you are the greatest man in Bagdad, you are the second being in the universe. What is the universe, and what art thou? Commander of the Faithful is a pompous appellation; but who are the faithful? A handful of two-legged insects, crawling in a corner of a paltry planet, called the earth. The annihilation of a thousand earths, with all their inhabitants, would make no blank in the universe. Examine the boundless skies; new suns at times appear there, with worlds revolving round them, inhabited by myriads of creatures rejoicing in their light. For some centuries they beam in our heavens, and increase our nocturnal canopy, till the fatal night arrives which the hand that formed them had marked for their extinction. The astronomer then looks in vain for them; the radiant orbs are vanished, their systems left in darkness, or hurled into confusion, and all animation there for ever lost. What is man?"

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

(Concluded from Page 354. No. V.)

THE Committee, after describing the state of society which had been produced in Africa by a trade calculated to destroy all confidence, to engender hatred, and spread desolation, observe:

"In such a dreadful state of society, what success could rationally be expected in any attempt to promote agriculture or legitimate commerce? The attempt was obviously hopeless; and even if there existed no other assignable cause for the small progress made by the Sierra Leone Company, in meliorating the condition of Africa, this seems to furnish a satisfactory solution of it.

The Committee, however, are desirous of cautioning the friends of the Institution against expecting any very great effects to be immediately produced, even by the cessation of the Slave Trade. Africa, exhausted by the expiring struggles of that ruinous traffick, may for a time be incapable of much exertion in other directions. On the coast especially, where the operation of the Society must commence, the population is so greatly thinned, by the excessive demands which have been made upon it, as to place very considerable difficulties in the way of the general diffusion of knowledge, and the general excitement of industry. Large districts in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, which, ten years ago, were comparatively populous, are now reduced to wastes, with hardly a trace of their former culture; and if an estimate were to be made of the existing population, for about seventy or eighty miles inland, on that district of coast which extends from the Rio Grande to Cape Palmas, with the exception of one state where some degree of security and improve-

ment is enjoyed in consequence of the adoption of the Mahomedan code, the average amount would probably be found to be less than seven persons to a square mile.

These facts, at the same time, are not of a nature which ought to have any effect in discouraging the exertions of the society. On the contrary, by displaying the magnitude of that work of beneficence and mercy in which it is engaged, they ought rather to redouble those exertions. The difficulties are great, but by no means insuperable. Though the Coast has been so greatly depopulated, yet the African continent is still possessed of an immense population. If security be given to the Coast, and encouragements held out to industry, the waste will soon be re-animated with new life. Labourers will migrate to the spot where their persons will be safe, and their labour productive. Men of commercial enterprize will be attracted to the points where the manufactures of Europe may be safely bartered for the productions of Africa; and the benefits of industrious occupation, of a fair and legitimate commerce, of order, justice and security, being once felt, they cannot fail to be duly appreciated and widely diffused.

But how, it will be asked, is that security which is the parent of industry, and of all those blessings which attend industry, to be attained? This is a subject which has occupied the attention of the Committee, and on which individual members of their body have favoured them with valuable suggestions; but as yet, it is one on which they are not prepared fully to enter. They will at present advert only to a single point connected with it.

One great (it may be almost said indispensable) step to the attainment of the security here spoken of, would be, to induce the other nations of the earth to follow the example which has been set them by Great Britain and America, and to relinquish the trade in Slaves. It cannot be denied that much of the success of any plan, which may be devised with a view to the improvement of Africa, will depend on the degree in which that trade is generally suppressed. At present, indeed, the Portugueze settled at Brazil, are the only persons at liberty to carry it on. Whether they can be prevailed upon to abandon it, and whether any measures can be taken effectually to prevent British capital from swelling the negro population, and enlarging the cultivation of South America, at the expense of the protracted misery of the African continent and the eventual ruin of our own colonies, are questions which the Committee will not now discuss. It may, however, be possible to induce the Government of Brazil, if not wholly to abandon the Slave Trade, yet to confine it within certain limits, by forbidding the supply of any colony belonging to a foreign nation, and by restraining their traders to the Eastern Coast of Africa, or at least to that coast and the coast of Angola. This may be the more practicable, since, with the exception of not quite a thousand slaves, which have been annually taken by the Portugueze from their settlement of Bissao, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, their Slave Trade is, in point of fact, already confined within the limits which have been specified; and, should the Portugueze agree to this restriction, the African coast, from the 20th degree of N. lat. to the 4th or 5th degree of S. lat. an extent of about 2300 miles, would be entirely free from the European Slave Trade, at least during the continuance of the present war.

But, supposing this object to be attained, it must still require the utmost efforts, on the part of the friends of Africa, so to improve the present crisis, as that on the termination of the war, those powers who may wish to resume the Slave Trade, may find the Africans so much enlightened with respect to their true interests as to be proof against its temptations. Under these circumstances it seems unnecessary to endeavour to impress on the public, how very urgent is the call for exertion; and, with a view to that exertion, how important it is, that funds should be provided for giving effect to the beneficial designs of the institution.

The Committee, before they close their Report, will briefly advert to the measures which have been adopted, or are now taking by Government,

with respect to Africa; for although these measures do not fall within the scope of the Society's deliberations, they may in their consequences very materially advance its general objects.

Two ships of war were sent out to the Coast in the month of November last, with instructions to their Commanders, to prevent the infraction of the law for abolishing the Slave Trade, and to take every opportunity which might occur of reconciling the African Chiefs (who, it must be remembered, have very generally been Traders in Slaves) to this measure, and of explaining to them its beneficial tendency.

A commission, consisting of three gentlemen (two of whom possess considerable local knowledge) has also been appointed and will proceed in a few months to the Coast of Africa, for the purpose of minutely investigating the state of the different British settlements, and pointing out in what manner they may be made subservient to the great object of African civilization.

Much important information may also be expected from them respecting the capabilities of Africa in general, and the condition of her inhabitants, and the best means of improving both, to the mutual advantage of that continent and of Great Britain.

His Majesty's Government has further resolved to appoint a Court of Vice-Admiralty at Sierra Leone, for the purpose of giving more complete effect to the Act for abolishing the Slave Trade. The appointment of such a judicature is particularly desirable at the present moment, as otherwise all the vessels which may be seized under the Abolition Act must be carried to the West Indies for a adjudication; a course which would be attended with a cruel protraction of the confinement on ship board of the captured Slaves. At Sierra Leone it will also be much easier than it would be in the West Indies, to dispose of these persons, agreeably to the humane provisions of the Act of Parliament. The system of free labour being already established at Sierra Leone, the introduction of any number of Negroes into that Colony, whether on the footing of free labourers or as apprentices for a limited period, could be attended with none of those inconveniences which, it is alleged, would flow from it in our West India islands, and which, as the Committee understand, are deemed to be so considerable as to make it a question whether many of the persons already liberated in the West Indies under the operation of the Abolition Act shall not be sent back to Sierra Leone. A better chance will also be thus afforded for restoring some of the captured Slaves to their former connections; and some of them, after having enjoyed the advantage of instruction in agriculture and in other useful arts at the Colony, may possibly be beneficially employed in disseminating, in other parts of Africa, the knowledge which they may have thus acquired."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN, &c. OF CARRICKFERGUS.

(Concluded from Page 334, No. V.)

ON the different branches of a small river called Wood-burn, the scenery of each is truly charming, the banks being covered with a profusion of natural shrubbery; the sheet of water is not very large, and consequently does not send forth that stunning noise which renders some cascades disagreeable; it is, to use the words of a learned author, "A uniform murmur, such as composes the mind to pensive meditation." The streams have also several lesser falls, besides the fore-mentioned;

> ....." And steals, at last,
> Along the mazes of the quiet vale."

Near the fall on the left, is a cave, hewn in a rock; it can be entered with some difficulty, and is pretty spacious. The Danish raths, or forts are very common here; I counted eight within three miles of the town, some of them very large, they are commonly called mounts, or forths, and believed by many to be the abode of fairies, &c.

I shall here mention the most memorable events of the place. About 320 years before Christ, Fergus the first, king of Scotland, founded the town*.

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* The cause of Fergus coming hither, is said to have been as follows; being af-

In 1178, Hugh de Lacy founded the castle; in 1316, it surrendered, after a long blockade, to the Scottish forces, under Edward Bruce; 1333, William de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, governor, was murdered by his own servants, who afterwards suffered here for the same; 1600, Arthur Chichester sallied forth with the garrison, and destroyed all the corn, hay, &c. in the adjacent country, which caused a dreadful famine the following year; 1639, a plan to deliver up the castle to the insurgents of Scotland was defeated by Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, and the chief agent executed; 1640, eight thousand infantry and one thousand cavalry were assembled here by him in excellent order, to oppose the Scots; 1641, Sir Phelim O'Neil resolved to possess himself of the town and castle, but being defeated on his way hither, he relinquished that plan; early in 1642, the garrison sallied out in the night, to the neighbouring district of Island-magee, and massacred upwards of thirty Roman Catholic families†; April 1642, four thousand Scottish auxiliaries, under one Robert Munroe, took possession of the town and castle; 1648, general Monk surprised and took general Munroe, the Scottish commander, prisoner, and sent him to England. The Scots having sent the greatest part of their forces, paid by the parliament in Ireland, to fight against them in England; early in 1649, it surrendered to Lord Inchiquin; General Monk was taken prisoner, but most of his officers and soldiers entered into his majesty's service. November 2d, 1649, the town and castle surrendered to Sir Charles Coote.

August 12th, 1689, Duke Schomberg arrived in the bay, with about ninety vessels, having on board near ten thousand men, but badly appointed, and disembarked the following day, at Groomsport, near Bangor. On marching to Belfast, the enemy retired to Carrickfergus, where several regiments were instantly detached with cannon; the place was then summoned in form, but not agreeing in the terms, batteries were raised; on the 22d, trenches were opened, and the siege carried on in form, till the 26th, when several breaches being made, and all things ready for an assault, the garrison surrendered, obtaining leave to go to Newry, where the Duke of Berwick, natural son of James the 2d, commanded. June 14th, 1690, king William landed here, attended by Prince George of Denmark, the Duke of Ormond, the Earls of Oxford, Scarborough and Manchester, the Hon. Mr. Boyle, and many persons of distinction, and was joined by several of the neighbouring gentlemen. October 1st, 1752, four men were killed at the castle, by the bursting of an old cannon, the gunner having wadded her with wet hay.

February 21st, 1760, Commodore Thurot arrived in this bay, with the following ships; Belleisle, 44 guns, Le Bland 32, and Terpsichore 26, and proceeded to land about one thousand men, he then attacked the town and castle, the garrison consisting of about one hundred and eighty men, of general Strode's regiment (62d, mostly recruits) commanded by colonel Jennings, made a vigorous defence from the town-wall and gardens, and afterwards retreated into the castle, the enemy then attempted to force the castle gate, but was beat back with considerable loss; the garrison having now expended all its ammunition, were obliged to surrender on honourable terms. The enemy's loss is supposed to have been near forty killed; among whom were three officers, and between forty and fifty wounded, among whom were general Clobert: the garrison had two killed, and three wounded. Thurot was for landing at Whitehouse, and surprising Belfast, but to this plan the general objected, fearing to be harrassed by

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flicted with a leprosy, he dreamed that if bathed in a well at this place, he would be cured immediately; he instantly repaired hither, and his dream is said to have been fulfilled. Tradition further adds, that this was the well inside the castle, which is dry these many years: the same tradition says he founded the castle.

† This horrid act is supposed to have been committed in revenge for the massacres of Lurgan, Portadown, &c. which is in some degree confirmed by a tradition current throughout the island, which says, that the Catholics prior to this had massacred all the protestants in an adjacent district.

leaving a garrison in his rear. The re-embarkation took place on the 29th same month, at 4, P.M. in some confusion, being apprehensive of an attack on their rear*. September 1773, a most tremendous gust of wind from the S.W. passed through a part of this district, tearing out of root several large trees, and blowing down hayricks, &c. May 1st, 1778, the famous Paul Jones, in the Ranger, arrived in this bay; the Drake frigate lying here, proceeding to reconnoitre, a desperate engagement ensued; when the Captain of the Drake being killed, and his second mortally wounded, she was forced to strike to this noted adventurer. In 1798, this castle was a state prison, and continued so for some years after. 1801, by the act of union, which took place this year, the corporation only returns one burgess to serve in parliament. S.M.S.

* Thurot's squadron was all captured on the 28th of the same month, by Captain Elliot, off the Isle of Mann; after a smart action of an hour and a half, in which Commodore Thurot was killed. His watch, a single cased gold one, is at present in possession of a gentleman near Belfast.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF JOS. DOMBEY, TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF M. DELEUZE.

THE names of literary men who acquire a reputation by their writings, descend to posterity, together with their discoveries; and should their contemporaries deny them justice, or envy seek to obscure their deserts, still their works remain a durable monument, and will at last establish their proper rank in literature. The history of the lives of such, though useful to point out the steps by which they advance to knowledge, and to diffuse more widely the general results of their labours, is not necessary to their fame.

Joseph Dombey was born at Macon on the 22d of February 1742. We have not been anxious to collect anecdotes of his youth; suffice it to say, that he took the degree of doctor of physic at Montpellier; in which city he first acquired a passion for natural history, and more especially botany, which he studied under M. Gouan. In stature he was tall and well made. His constitution was strong. His character naturally full of vivacity and gaiety, and thoughtless of either fortune or fame, he devoted himself with equal ardour to study and to pleasure. An enemy to all constraint, and considering his patrimony as sufficient for his demands, he was totally negligent of his affairs. Amiable and generous, he mingled with society without calculating the expense or loss of time. The morrow with him was ever a distant period.

Seemingly occupied during winter solely with the pleasures of the town, as soon as spring reanimated vegetation, he was attracted to the country by the flowers; in search of these he travelled through the southern provinces, and along the sea coasts, and when they were no longer to be found in the plains, he ascended the mountains, and staid there till driven away by the snow. For several months no one heard speak of him, nor was it known where he could be found. As long as his money lasted, he used it to facilitate his journeys; but when it was gone he knew how to do without it, travelling on foot, and living with the frugality of a hermit, till an opportunity offered of borrowing more; when, reckoning that he should soon have wherewithal to repay, he would, without hesitation, give exhorbitant interest. Continuing thus to spend without calculation, when the time of payment came he found himself harrassed by his debts, and again had recourse to ruinous expedients for raising money. To this thoughtlessness he joined a most delicate sense of honour: his word was a sacred engagement. Unsuspicious and disinterested, his commerce with the world was easy and mild; but to this mildness was joined a firm-

ness, a bravery, and even a sort of pride suitable to a man who knew how to respect himself.

With a view to his proficiency in botany he removed to Paris in 1772, and on his arrival there presented to M. Bernard de Juissieu a very fine herbarium of the Pyrenees. He attended the lectures of this professor, as well as those of M. Lemonnier, and attached himself particularly to M. Thouin, all of whom entertained the highest idea of his talents and integrity. J. J. Rousseau, weary of a fame so fatal to his repose, was at this time seeking to console himself with the study of botany. This philosopher, meeting by accident with Dombey, was so much pleased with his frankness, and especially with his talking to him about nothing but plants, that he was desirous of having him for a companion in his botanical excursions, and conceived for him an intimate friendship.

In 1775, Juissieu being applied to by the controller-general, M. Turgot, for a botanist to go to Peru, in order to search for such useful plants as might be naturalized in Europe, recommended Dombey as every way fit for the undertaking, and the minister desired to see him; but being at that time ranging over the Alps, on his return from a journey to Berne, where he had been to pay a visit to the great Haller, he he was not immediately to be found, M. Thouin addressed several letters to him, at different places; and the one directed to St. Claude finding him there on the 13th of August 1775, he set off immediately for Paris, presented himself to M. Turgot, and received orders to hold himself in readiness to depart for Madrid, from whence he was to proceed to Peru. He immediately procured whatever he thought necessary, settled with his creditors, to whom he secured a part of the salary of 3000 livres allotted him, and was extremely impatient to be gone; but as the necessity for making the project agreeable to the court of Spain occasioned a delay till the autumn of the following year, this time he employed in making himself acquainted with every branch of natural history, and more particularly with whatever related to the objects of his voyage.

He arrived at Madrid on the 5th of November 1776, where he found the phlegmatic character of the persons with whom he had to deal, entirely opposite to his own, their indolence ill suited to his impatience, and their want of confidence altogether intolerable. The minister for the Indies, M. de Galves, wishing to join with him some Spanish botanists to collect for Spain, as he should do for France, two pupils of M. Ortega and two draftsmen were appointed for this purpose, with a salary of 10,000 livres each. Instructions were drawn up, by which even Dombey's pursuits were to be regulated; for he was charged to make experiments upon the culture of cinnamon, supposed at that time to be indigenous in Peru, and to apply himself to several researches concerning the mines. On account of the delay occasioned by this arrangement, the expedition was not ready to sail for ten months longer; yet in spite of all the solicitations of Dombey, many necessaries were neglected to be procured, and he was to furnish at his own expense, paper, instruments, &c. These and other articles cost him three times as much as they would have done at Paris; and although he lived with great economy, he found his income inadequate to his expenses at Madrid. His salary was doubled, but still fell much below that of his companions. This was a subject of uneasiness; but having arrived at Cadiz on the 17th of September 1776, all the difficulties and dangers of the voyage vanished from his sight; his thoughts hurried him across the Atlantic, and he already enjoyed, in prospect, the pleasure in seeing the plants of the new world, and of making himself useful to his country and to Spain. He embarked on board the Peruano of sixty guns, commanded by M. de Cordua, on the 20th of October 1777, and arrived at the port of Callao on the 7th of April 1778. The next day he went to Lima, where he was very well received by Don Emanuel de Guirrior, the viceroy of Peru.

At the sight of the ancient kingdom of the Incas, his enthusiasm redoubled; he contemplated at a distance the summits of the Cordilleras: he was however detained several months at Lima. In this city it never rains, but, in the winter season a continual fog ob-

scures the sun and nourishes vegetation, and by the end of the spring all is dry and scorched up. Dombey employed this time in collecting seeds, not from off the plants, but from the repositories of the ants in the sand, where the want of moisture prevented them from germinating.

M. de Bordenave, canon of Lima, an old friend of M. de Juissieu, pressed him to accept of board and lodging at his house; but this, although a great resource in a country where every thing is so dear, he refused, rather than separate himself from his companions, with whom, in the spring, he undertook a journey along the coasts, as far as the line near to Quito. The travellers were exposed to great danger, from which they escaped only by their courage, being attacked by a band of runaway negroes, of whom they killed one, and took three prisoners. No notice was taken of this event at Lima.

Dombey procured in this journey a great many plants, and other objects of curiosity, and some extremely rare antiquities, such as the vases found in the tombs of the ancient Peruvians, and a dress of the Incas. He superintended the making of 300 drawings, many of them of new genera; but he could not obtain a copy even of the representations of the plants he had named in honour of his patrons and friends. It was not upon this occasion only that he felt the art of design to be one of the most essential requisites to a naturalist, particularly to a traveller.

On his return to Lima, Dombey, learning that the Buen-Consejo was about to sail for Cadiz, wished to seize this opportunity of sending his collection to Europe. The number of his specimens was very considerable, having preserved twelve of each species. Of these he made two herbariums; one for France, and the other for the king of Spain. He sent also the vases and the ancient dress, which he begged M. d'Angivillers to present to the king of France; several specimens of minerals, and thirty-eight pounds of platina, designed for the cabinets of the king, the Academy, and M. Sage; a packet of seeds of the Quinoa*, &c. He also addressed to M. de Galvez a memoir on the pretended cinnamon tree of the neighbourhood of Quito, which he proved to be not the true cinnamon of Ceylon, but another species of Laurus (*Laurus quixos*, Lam. Encyc.) not applicable to the same purposes, and therefore not worth attempting to cultivate; and a memoir upon a cruel disease very common in Peru, which he attributes to the abuse there made of pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) of the pubescent winter-cherry (*Physalis pubescens*) and of the love-apple (*Solanum Lycopersicum.*)

In April 1779 he received an order from the viceroy to repair to Ceuchin, to analyse the mineral waters. After having fulfilled this commission at his own expense, he advanced into the province of Tarma, on the other side of the Cordilleras, and followed the torrents which run into the Maragnon, or River of the Amazons. In this canton the country is mountainous, and the soil so variable, that every valley produces a different set of plants; but the precipices, the height of the mountains, and the sudden changes from heat to cold, render botanizing both troublesome and dangerous. He next proceeded to Huanuco, where he arrived in the beginning of May 1780. This town is the last of the Spanish settlements. Further on are vast forests, where the Cinchona grows in abundance, though not known before to be found any where but in Loxa. The Spaniards had indeed been informed of this the year before; but it was very important to verify the fact, and to determine whether the species were the same as the officinal bark. Mules, servants, Indian guides, and provisions, the same as for a voyage by sea, were requisite to botanize in these forests, so impenetrable by the trees being tied together by several kinds of climbing plants, that a passage can only be made by the hatchet. For every species a tree

* *Chenopodium Quinoa* L. This plant is cultivated in Peru and Chili; the leaves are eaten like spinach; and the seeds, which Dombey assures us are nearly as good as rice, form the principal nourishment of the people. It is an annual, and would therefore succeed in France; but unfortunately the seeds sent to M. Thouin could not be sown till two years after they were gathered, and consequently would not grow.

must be felled, often two, because most of them are dioicous. In these thick forests the heat is so suffocating, for want of the circulation of air, as to occasion the greatest inconvenience; speedily spoiling the salted provisions, and filling the biscuits full of insects. The travellers had established the depôt of their collection at the little post of Cochero, where nothing was to be procured: nevertheless, they would have prolonged their stay, had they not received information that two hundred savages were on their way to attack and pillage them; to escape from whom it was necessary to set out in the middle of the night, to cross over the precipices, in order to reach Huanuco, from whence Dombey returned to Lima to procure assistance. The two servants he had been obliged to take with him cost him more than his salary, and he laid out in articles he had purchased more money than had been given him; and although M. Necker had ordered him 10,000 livres extra pay, this whole sum was absorbed in the expense of package only. His companions had a salary of 10,000 livres each, yet he had been obliged to lend them 8000. It may be asked whence he could obtain these resources:—let us see how this enigma is to be solved.

I have already said that Dombey carried to Lima the produce of his botanical excursions. Here he occupied himself in writing the descriptions, of which he always made duplicates at least; in arranging his specimens, and in collecting every thing curious or interesting; yet all these objects to which he devoted himself with such ardour, did not employ the whole of his time. He and his companions were at first well received; but in a country where luxury is excessive, where riches only are held in estimation, and the sciences so very little known, men who travelled on foot to collect herbs were soon held in derision and contempt. Some few only, to whom he had letters of recommendation, treated them with respect. There existed a still more unfavourable prejudice against Dombey; for the writings of the French philosophers snd literati having scandalized the Spanish clergy, every Frenchman passed for a heretic. "I am very regular in conforming to all religious customs," says he, in one of his letters; "but notwithstanding this, the Inquisition would not let me alone a single day, if I had not been sent by the king." He conducted himself, however, so prudently, that he soon conciliated both esteem and consideration. He was a physician, and visited the sick; and the prejudices against him did not prevent him being regarded as more skilful than the physicians of the country. He visited alike the rich and the poor, without ever accepting of any fee: he distributed medicines to the poor gratis, and frequently gave them money also. If he worked all the day, at night he went into company, always avoiding going to the same houses as his companions.

The Peruvian ladies are very agreeable, addicted to pleasure, but badly educated. Dombey did not seek their society in private, but paid his court to them in their public assemblies. Play is their principal occupation, and to make one of their party is the best way to be well received. As they attach but little value to money, they of course play carelessly. Dombey, whilst he gave up his time to their amusement, played at cards in a gentleman-like disinterested manner, but with attention: he was successful; and it is singular enough, that a passion so often ruinous, and almost always an enemy to study, was to him an useful resource, and even enabled him to procure objects in natural history. Thus, by conforming to the customs of the country, and distinguishing himself by a respectful gallantry towards the ladies, Dombey was soon in high repute. The frivolous found in him one of the most amiable of men; to those who knew how to appreciate merit he recommended himself by his manner and his knowledge; in fine, by his easy address, his open character, and the services he rendered, he made himself friends, who offered him money whenever he stood in need of it, and would not be repaid till after his return to France. One of these lent him at one time 40,000 livres. At the same time he was no economist: when he gained he paid his debts, he made new acquisitions, and the surplus, if any, he gave to the unfortunate. Thus it was that at one time he was seen living

in splendour, then again not able to keep one servant; but labouring with the same zeal in every situation.

If the Spanish government is justly accused of being often suspicious; if the people are a prey to indolence, and debased by superstition, there are in this nation, perhaps more than in any other, instances of men possessing elevated and generous souls, animated by every character of greatness, and who disregard every sacrifice they can make: there are among them enlightened men, who set the higher value upon knowledge, and are the more sensible of the advantages arising therefrom, in proportion as it is of more rare occurrence. In this class Dombey found admirers and friends, who thought themselves happy to offer him services, opening to him their purses, and co-operating with him in doing good; and we shall soon see that many parts of his conduct might well excite their enthusiasm.

Having procured the necessary funds, and packed up his collection, Dombey wished to return to Huanuco, where he had left his companions; a a journey at this time full of danger, all the provinces about Lima being in a flame. The Indian Tapac-maro, pretending to be a descendant of the Incas, had put himself at the head of a considerable party, and drawn a number of villages into his rebellion. This war had already occasioned the destruction of several thousand lives; and the loss of the whole of Peru was dreaded. Notwithstanding this alarming state of affairs, Dombey continued his pursuits, and arriving at Huanuco the latter end of December 1780, he found the inhabitants plunged in the greatest distress and consternation, and reduced to extremities, having neither food nor money. He immediately waited on the president of the general council, and offered him the sum of 1000 piastres, and twenty loads of corn, for the support of the troops. The council and all the military officers assembled; when Dombey, renewing his offer, added that of raising two regiments at his own expense, putting himself at the head of them, and marching against the rebels. He was heard with enthusiasm; and although his offer was not accepted, the Spanish officers were roused by the liberality of a Frenchman, and engaged to furnish the thousand piastres, and to maintain the troops at their own expense, each in his turn. Thanks were voted to Dombey by the council, by the officers, the magistrates, and the bishop; they acknowledged that to him they owed the preservation of the city, and perhaps the termination of the war; in which perished, before the capture of Tapoc-Maro, a hundred thousand persons. Dombey, however, resolved not to profit by the refusal of his gift, sent it to the hospital of St. Jean-de-Dieu, to be distributed amongst the poor. On his departure to Huanuco he was accompanied of the inhabitants; but unfortunately the glory with which he was covered could not fail to excite envy.

On his return to Lima he received the most afflicting intelligence. The ship Buen-Consejo had been taken by the English. All the collections had been purchased at Lisbon, on account of the Spanish government, and M. Ortega had presented to his Catholic majesty the vases, the dress of the Incas, and other valuable articles intended for the king of France. Nothing had been forwarded to Paris but the duplicates of the dried plants and seeds. As the vessel had been taken by the English, and the property bought by Spain, the king of France had certainly no valid claim upon it; yet a a proceeding so opposite to the elevated sentiments of Dombey could not fail to wound his feelings. He did not however show any discontent; but when those who had profited by his labours dared to add reproaches, he repelled them with indignant firmness. "The minister for the Indies," said the viceroy to him, "has desired me to inform you that the king of Spain thought it strange that the herbarium designed for him was not so considerable as that for the king of France."—"And has not the French minister also written to your Excellency to complain that my Spanish companions have not transmitted to Paris copies of their drawings and duplicates of what they have collected?"—"No, certainly; but the Spanish gentlemen do not owe any thing to France."—"And what, sir, do I owe to Spain? Does the king of Spain

pay me any salary? You may answer, that since it is demanded of me, I will never from this time send any thing more." The viceroy, who possessed as much gentleness as dignity, far from resenting this pride, endeavoured to sooth him, and persuaded him to write civilly to the minister for the Indies; and Dombey, though he resisted unjust commands, instantly yielded to these polite solicitations, and continued to send to Spain duplicates of each plant, only taking the precaution to demand receipts, that he might have it in his power, to produce to his court the proof of his proceedings.

Exhausted with fatigue, our traveller was now desirous of returning to Europe, but he wished first to visit Chili; a country the more interesting to him, because the climate, being very similar to that of France, afforded hopes that its vegetable productions might be more easily naturalized. Having filled twenty cases with his collections, and deposited them at Lima, with directions to have them embarked after the peace, he prepared to set off for Chili, a journey requiring enormous expenses, as he could not dispense with his two servants, whom he had instructed, and who required great wages. Money was necessary, as well to defray the expense of his journey and his residence in the country, as for the purchase of the curiosities he might meet with; and such was the zeal he had inspired, that 50,000 livres were offered him. He also had letters of recommendation to the most distinguished characters, and arrived at Conception in the beginning of the year 1782.

In this city a contagious disease was at that time making dreadful ravages; many had perished; every one shut himself up in his house; and the sick were abandoned. Dombey was advised to avoid the danger. What indeed had a botanist to fear, whose employment was to ramble over the country, and in a climate so mild that it was easy to avoid every suspected house? But Dombey was not only a botanist, he was likewise a physician, and his humanity prompted him to brave every danger. He accordingly settled in the city, and, excluding himself from every house where the contagion had not reached, dedicated his whole time to visiting the poor, furnishing them with food, medicines, vinegar, sugar, beds, and even nurses at 5 livres a day. He soon found that the distemper was not so fatal when treated properly, and he devoted himself with indefatigable courage. When it was observed that he cured others without being infected himself, confidence returned, the sick were taken better care of, and in the end the epidemic totally disappeared. Dombey was now regarded as a messenger from heaven: he received thanks in the name of the whole country, and was offered the place of physician to the city, with a salary of 10.000 livres. Nor were other means neglected to detain him; for Dombey having regarded with much interest a beautiful lady, and very rich, who was herself not insensible to his merit, the bishop of La Conception insisted upon her marrying him. Although more inclined to the match from the feelings of his heart than even from the prospect of riches and reputation, yet reflecting that this marriage would prevent his returning to his own country, and offering there the fruits of his labours, he resisted the temptation, and to avoid the struggle left La Conception and repaired to St. Jago. This determination he was sensible he might live to regret; but he considered it as a duty to fulfil the mission intrusted to him. Would to God he had yielded to these solicitations of gratitude! Perhaps he had then been still living; he might have sent his collections from Chili to Europe, and had been spared the pain of seeing himself deprived of of the greater part of the fruits of his labour; had escaped being a prey to the vexations which embittered his latter days, and nearly deprived him of his reason; nor would he then have witnessed those scenes of terror and barbarity which drove him from France; he had not in fine perished miserably without relation or friend to soothe his sorrow.—But let us not anticipate events. Dombey departed for St. Jago after having filled twenty cafes, of which six consisted of dried plants, the rest of minerals, shells, and a great number of designs that he had caused to be executed.

During his residence in this city,

the reputation he had acquired procured him from the Spanish government a sufficiently troublesome commission. The quicksilver mines of Huanca-Velica having been ruined by the falling in of the earth, and those of Almaden not furnishing a sufficient supply for working the gold mines of Peru and Chili, *Le regent de l' audience* of Chili received orders to cause others to be sought for. Dombey was applied to, and set off for the Cordilleras to examine the old mine of Coquimbo, which had been abandoned above fifty years: this he caused to be cleared out, and a plan taken of it. He discovered at Xarilla a mine two leagues in extent; and brought back specimens of the ore, the assay of which left no room to doubt of the great importance of the discovery. These inquiries having led him to examine with care the course of the mines and the mode of working them, the signs by which they may be detected and the best means of rendering them productive, he addressed a memoir on the subject to the court of Spain. At the same time he pointed out a new mine of gold, and mineralogists were sent into Chili in compliance with his instructions.

In this excursion into the Cordilleras he had to travel a hundred leagues, and the labour to which he submitted nearly deprived him of his hearing. He expended 15,000 livres, the reimbursement of which he refused, alleging that he was happy to sacrifice his time and labour to be useful to Spain, as he thought by so doing he seconded the intentions of France; but that he could render no account of his expenses, except to the government which sent him. He had done the same with regard to his expenses in the analysis of the mineral waters of Caxatumbo.

In the midst of these labours his botanical pursuits were not neglected. He found in Chili one of the finest trees in the world, observed before by Molina, and imperfectly described under the name of *Pinus araucaria*. It is fit for masts, having a trunk 150 feet long, and straight as an arrow. M. Daubenton has spoken of it in his Memoirs of Agriculture, and called it *Basilaire*. Lamarck has described it under the name of Dombeya, and Juissieu under that of Araucaria. Dombey having pointed out to the Spaniards the use that might be made of this tree, and proved that a vessel which had been dismasted had been repaired with it at a small expense, the minister of the Indies gave him the thanks of his Catholic majesty. It is to be regretted that the seeds brought into Europe have not germinated, as there is reason to believe that the tree would succeed in the open ground in the southern departments of France, and that it would be very useful. The nuts are good to eat. Cones, male catkins, and planks of the wood, are preserved in the museum*.

* From trials lately made both in Chili and in Portugal, it has been found that the Araucania is not so proper for masts as was at first supposed, the wood being too soft. Two other species of Araucaria have been discovered: the one, a native of Norfolk Island, is actually cultivated in the Kew garden, under the name of Columbia, the beauty of these trees tempting the English to bestow on the genus the name of the discoverer of the New World.—Author. (It is L'Heritier who called it *Columbia*.—Edit.)

To be concluded in our next.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

BLACK MONDAY.

HANMER'S Chronicle gives the following account of the origin of this name.

Thorne Castle is now Cullen's wood; 'tis now an old stump of a castle just above ground, scarcely two miles from the city of Dublin. This City, by reason of a great mortality, being much wasted and desolate, the inhabitants, after their country manner upon holydays, some for love of fresh air, and others for pastime, pleasure and gaming' sake, flocked out from thence to Cullen's wood. Upon Monday in Easter-week, the Burns and

Tools (the mountain enemies) like wolves lay in ambush for them, and finding they were unarmed, fell upon them, and slew about three hundred men, besides women and children, whom they led away in their hands: soon after, upon report of this, the city was peopled again by the Bristolians. Afterwards that dismal day used to be remembered, and solemnly observed by the Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen and citizens, with feasting, music, and pitching up of tents in that place (as though it was to dare those merciless slaves and cowards) and marching there regimentally, or in corporations in the best method they could devise, with varieties of formalities, as drums, colours flying, and other figures to each corporation. But this is left off lately, more is the pity; if it should be continued, once every two years, and the franchises every third year, it would occasion much trade to most of the tradesmen and dealers in the city of Dublin.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR.

Such was the poverty of the Western part of England during part of the 13th Century, that we find the English Judges excusing themselves to the Lord Chancellor, from holding a court of Eyre, in Cornwall. "*Si veniamus ibidem, macras genas reportabimus.*" Literally thus, "If we go thither, we shall bring back lanthorn jaws."

EXTRAORDINARY VISITATION.

Giraldus Cambrensis relates, that there is a small island, almost adjoining to Anglesey, which is inhabited by Hermits, living by manual labour, and serving God. It is remarkable, that when, by the influence of human passions, any discord arises among them, all their provisions are devoured and infected by a species of small mice, with which the island abounds; but when the discord ceases, they are no longer molested.

LORD AUDLEY.

James Lord Audley attended the Black prince at the battle of Poictiers, and was there severely wounded; the Prince rewarded him with a gift of four hundred marks, yearly rent; which he immediately divided among his four esquires, saying at the same time to the Prince, "Sir, it is meet that I do well for those who have deserved best of me, for these my esquires saved my life among my enemies, and God be thanked, my ancestors have left me sufficient revenues to maintain me in your service." This nobleman was afterwards killed at Blorenheath, in Shropshire, during the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster.

CIRCUITS IN MUNSTER AND CONNAUGHT.

Sir Arthur Chichester, who was Lord Deputy of Ireland, in the beginning of the reign of James the first, first established a circuit for Judges of Assize, in the provinces of Munster and Connaught.

ANECDOTE OF STRONGBOW'S SON.

It is recorded that Richard Strongbow, who first invaded Ireland, had a son who being desirous to signalize his courage, asked his father's permission to attack the Irish army, which had collected in great numbers. On being refused, he sallied out contrary to orders, but was so warmly received by the enemy, that he was forced to retreat, after having received a severe check. No sooner had he arrived at the English camp than his father, incensed at his disobedience and ill success, drew his sword, and plunged it into his body. He was buried, as was Strongbow himself afterwards, in the Church of the Holy Trinity, now called Christ's Church, Dublin.

JULIUS THE SECOND.

Julius II. had more of the spirit of a soldier than an ecclesiastic. He employed the great Michael Angelo, to superintend his buildings; and when he supposed him dilatory, often threatened to throw him off the scaffold. Once he gave him a severe beating, which he afterwards compensated by a handsome present in money. The same artist was employed to cast a statue of this Pope in bronze, for the city of Bologna, and proposed to put a book in his hand. "No" said the military pontiff, "let me hold a sword, I am no man of letters." When the Bentivoglio family became masters of Bologna, the statue was melted down and formed into a piece of ordnance; a change which would have given Julius no displeasure.

ABOU JOSEPH.

Abou Joseph flourished in the reign of Haroun al Raschid, by whom he was appointed to an office in Bagdat, similar to that of our Lord Chancellor. He was not only a man of Learning, but of much quickness in repartee, as appears from the following anecdote.

Some persons had consulted him on some point, on which he candidly acknowledged his ignorance. They reproached him with receiving large sums of money as a salary from the royal treasury; notwithstanding which he did not discharge his duty, as was proved by his ignorance in this particular. "My friends" replied he, "I receive a salary proportioned to what I *know*, but if I were to receive in proportion to what I *do not know*, all the treasures of the Khalifat would be insufficient to pay me."

ORIENTAL POETS.

The poets of Arabia stand high in the estimation of the Eastern Literati. One of the most conspicuous of them is Abou Tamam, who was born about the year 190 of the Hegira, and died about the year 231. His life was rather short, as had been predicted of him by one of his friends, who, with a striking accuracy of comparison, said that the activity of his mind, would consume his body, as the blade of an Indian sword wears out its sheath. The testimony given of his works by a brother poet, is one of the most unequivocal kind. When a writer not only praises the works of a cotemporary author, but even exalts them above his own, we have the strongest evidence in their favour. This is the case with respect to Abou Tamam's works: for Bakhteri, who is highly esteemed as a poet among the Arabians, being asked his opinion of them, and whether himself or Abou Tamam were the better poet? ingenuously declared, "what is good in Abou Tamam's writings, far surpasses the best of mine; while the bad in mine is much more tolerable than the exceptionable parts of his."

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

On employing Coal Gas for lighting small manufactories, and for other purposes from a paper by Mr. B. Cook, of Caroline-street, Birmingham. PHIL. JOUR. v. XXI, p. 10291.

HITHERTO Coal Gas has only been employed permanently for lighting large manufactories. Mr. Cook has applied this Gas on a smaller scale in his manufactory of metallic toys, and has very benevolently published an account of the great advantages he has found from its use to induce others to follow his example.

Mr. Cook's apparatus consists of a small cast iron pot, containing about eight gallons, with a cast iron cover luted to it with sand, which serves as a retort for forcing over the gas from the coal placed in it, by fire applied beneath it; from this pot a pipe passes the gas, through water, to a reservoir, which holds about 400 gallons, whence it is conveyed all round the work-shops, through tubes formed of old gun barrels, which may be procured from the gun manufactures at a cheap rate. Mr. Cook finds the flame of the gas much superior to that from a lamp urged by a blow pipe for soldering, which is much used in his trade; this flame is quicker and sharper, is constantly ready for use, and performs the work more neatly and more expeditiously than the lamp which requires to burn some time before its flame is sufficiently powerful for use, so that both the workman's time is lost by it, and much oil is wasted to no purpose.

This very useful application of the gas, of which Mr. Cook is the first inventor, makes it necessary to keep the apparatus in constant action, day and night, while his men are at work, and twenty-five pounds of coal put into the pot, are found to be sufficient to afford all the gas wanted every twenty-four hours, with a considerable surplus, which is burned to waste when not wanted; the whole quantity of gas produced by this quantity

of coal is computed to be 600 gallons, twenty-five pounds more coal will be fully adequate for the fire beneath the pot, during the same period; the coke produced in the process may be used for the same purpose.

This quantity of coals cost Mr. Cook only four pence, and for this small charge he has light supplied equal to that of eighteen or twenty candles, of six to the pound, besides the saving of the oil and cotton for his soldering lamps, which used to cost him full 30*l.* a year: from this saving only five shillings a week are to be deducted for the charge of a man to attend the gas apparatus, part of his time.

Mr. Cook only values the coke produced at 2*l.* 10*s.* a year, which from his own account, in another part of his paper, is evidently too little; for he states there, that coke in stoves or furnaces lasts so much longer than coals (on account of the flame of the bitumen in the latter, causing the whole to consume with great rapidity) that "two fires of coke will last longer than three of coal." He also makes no allowance for the value of the tar, setting that off for casual losses; but it is to be hoped that this tar will be more valued and have a better sale, when its good properties for paying ships are better known, of which a notable instance has been mentioned, in the account of the ship Economy, constructed on Mr. J. W. Boswell's patent plan, which vessel was paid with it on her last voyage, but even if not sold, it would be of some value in burning in the retort to produce gas.

Mr Cook's statement of the account of the annual cost of the gas, contrasted with that of candles, &c. for the same purpose, is as follows:

Yearly expense in coals and man,	£	s.	d.	Dr.
	18	10	0	
Interest of forty-two pounds (cost of apparatus)	2	0	0	
Profits per year,	30	0	0	
	£50	10	0	

Twenty weeks candles, at eighteen shillings per week,	£	s.	d.	Cr.
	18	0	0	
Oil and cotton for lamps,	30	0	0	
Coke worth, estimated,	2	10	0	
	£50	10	0	

An apparatus which saves 30*l.* per annum, costs from Mr Cook's statement, only 42*l.* He thinks the plan might be used to great advantage on a still smaller scale, for those who use but six candles and one soldering lamp, and for this purpose a first expense of ten or twelve pounds would be sufficient, which would be saved in the first year. Mr. Cook acknowledges the profit to be under-rated, as the gas would not be wanted for light in summer; the coke seems rated so much beneath its value, that probably the error of the credit on this account would add much to that mentioned, and both together cause the profit to be much higher than what is stated. Mr. Cook states that considerable national benefit would arise from the general use of gas lights, by reducing the importation of tallow, and of spirits of turpentine; as the spirit which might be drawn from the tar (of which spirit a good deal is also produced in procuring the gas) would answer all purposes probably as well as that imported from Russia, which now costs twenty shillings a gallon, though formerly the same quantity was sold for three and sixpence.

Mr. Cook has promised to communicate to the public, plans and drawings of a small gas apparatus sufficient to enable any man to put one up for himself; which will be of the more value as we have as yet no exact description in print of the whole process of managing the gas from actual practice in this country; many minute parts of the apparatus, which a person familiar with them would not think of consequence enough to mention, would require many trials from any one else, before they could be made to the best advantage.

A method of constructing a gas apparatus, called a *Thermopæle* was published in Sonini's Journal; and afterwards a translation of the account was inserted in the Repository of Arts, No. 49, with a plate. It does not appear, however, from this that any stoves were actually made on this plan, or that its utility was much proved by experiment. It contains the only description we are acquainted with, of a method of passing the gas through water.

Mr. Cook has remarked, that if the use of coal gas became universal, so much coke would be made in producing it, that it would probably put a stop to the manufacture of coke at the coal works. This would also be a national advantage, as the prodigious quantity of heat and light, at present, wasted in the coal works, would then be all converted to profitable use. He has also observed, that another consequence of this measure would be, the reduction of the price of candles, oil, tallow, and of course, of soap.

Cheap and easy method of Charring Bog-turf into Coke, from the Transactions of the Dublin Society.

Observing that charred turf is not yet become a manufacture, or brought to market for the use of smiths or various manufacturers, it is proposed to render this easy and profitable to every poor cotter.

Let a pit be dug in the floor of the cabin, near the hearth, two feet deep, and as long and as broad, as a flag can be conveniently got; if of the length of the hearth, and three feet wide, the better.

Let a hole be cut, either round or square, in the middle of the flag, large enough for the arm to go in, and to reach to each extremity of the pit, and let a flag-cover be made to fit the hole; there may be an iron ring in the cover to lift it off and on.

Whenever the poor cotter boils his potatoes, there are usually left in the grate, or on the hearth, a number of pieces of turf, thoroughly burnt, fit for coke or char, which are suffered to waste and burn out into ashes.

Let these thorough burnt lumps of turf, in their glowing state, be taken off with the tongs, and conveyed into the pit, covering the hole of the flag immediately, to exclude the air; these lumps of turf will be charred or coked, fit for use. When the pit is full, let it be emptied out into a dry corner of the cabin, till there is a quantity for market, it will be readily bought up by the smiths, for the forge, or changed for horse shoes or iron work, wanted for cars. The country smiths seldom burn the turf properly for coke, or cover it sufficiently from the air, when burnt, to make good char or coke.

A quantity made by this direction was sent to the manufacturers of japan, at Newry, and they certified that it was nearly equal to charcoal, but burnt something quicker. The greasy or soapy black turf is the best for coke.

If the landlords would make a few of these pits here and there, on the mountainous or boggy parts of their estates, it would soon become common.

Description of a temporary Life-boat, recommended to be used on the coast of Ireland.

Reading the account of the shipwreck at Ballycastle, I could not but lament the want of that useful machine, a life-boat, which has proved so serviceable in similar cases, when all prospect of assistance without it, seemed utterly impossible. As it is however improbable that a sufficient number of boats on the most approved plan could be stationed in sufficient numbers along our widely extended coasts, to be ready in every case of emergency; I offer the following plan for converting any boat into a good substitute. It is well known that air is a thousand times lighter than water, and that a cubic foot of fresh water weighs sixty-five pounds; could therefore a sufficient number of air-tight compartments be made in any boat, it is clear she must float when even filled with water and heavy articles. The Esquimeaux and Greenlanders construct boats, which, from being covered over with a skin, which laces tight about the body of the person who navigates them, thereby excluding water from the cavity, pass without danger through the most turbulent seas; and Dr. Franklin, among many other valuable hints for enlarging the comforts of mankind, suggests this idea of having air-tight compartments in vessels to augment their *floatability*, and also, that by bunging up the water casks as they were emptied, a collection of air might be formed, capable of floating several tons*. All that is necessary to convert any common boat into a life-boat is to dispose a number of small casks, closely bunged, under the thwarts, and in other parts of the boat, and securing them from mov-

* See Franklin's Works, vol. ii. 170.

ing, for upon their being firmly fixed, depends the safety of the crew. A ten gallon keg, holding eighty pounds of water may serve as a standard to reckon from, and as a small boat, or Norway yawl, can hold ten such small casks, without inconvenience, and as the boat will float, when without heavy articles, even when full of water, we may safely calculate on a *floatability* of eight-hundred pounds, and so in proportion on all other occasions. Some ballast may be necessary in order to give steadiness, but this need be in small quantity, if disposed in the very bottom, or it might even be pieces of timber, which would not diminish the buoyance, yet preserve the boat upright among the waves, especially as we do not suppose the boat to carry sail. In a boat thus prepared, little danger is to be apprehended, and when confidence enables men to think with composure, they will be able to make good a landing at the most favourable moment, and skilful seamen will know that even during tremendous gales, by attention to the waves, a safe landing may be affected in many places, where certain destruction would most inevitably follow a precipitate attempt.

People accustomed to triumph over difficulties acquire, by habit, a contempt for danger, but certainly it would be worth consideration to have all fishing boats, pleasure boats, and one boat at least belonging to every ship, adapted at all times for standing heavy seas without being liable either to sink or overset, a matter easily accomplished if the ballast was a bar of iron placed on the keel and air-tight compartments might be made without much expense or inconvenience, underneath the seats, and at the stem and stern, of sufficient capacity, both to float the ballast with any common quantity of loading, and to ensure safety to the crew.

Since writing the above, I am happy to find the latter part of this plan has been carried into effect by Mr. Christopher Towill, and after the most satisfactory trials, a figure, with a complete description, has been given to the public, in Nicholson's Journal, of January 1, 1809. "The following is a description of the boat as built by Mr. Christopher Towill, of Teignmouth. Her length is thirty feet, her breadth ten, her depth three feet six inches. The space between her timbers is fitted up with Pinewood; this is done with a view to prevent the water lodging there. The pine wood is well caulked and paid. She is buoyed up by eight metal cases, four on each side; these are water-tight, and independent of each other. They will serve to buoy up six tons, but I find that all the buoyant parts of the boat, taken collectively, will buoy up ten tons. The cases are securely decked over and boarded on the sides with pine. There is a scuttle to each case to put goods in; the edges are lined with baize, and over each scuttle in the case, is one of wood, of a larger size, the margin of which is lined in the same manner, to exclude the water. Between the cases are Norwegian balks, bolted to the bottom, and fastened to each other by iron clamps, and decked over. The depth of her keel is about nine inches below the garboard-streak, the dead rising is four inches. Her keel is narrow at the under part, and wide above, for the purpose of giving the timber a good bed, which will support the bolts in case a necessity should arise to encounter sand-banks. In sailing over a bar, or in places where the water is shallow, the rudder will with ease draw up even with the keel, and when in deep water it will let down, instantly, and with equal facility, a foot below it; in consequence of which advantage, the boat is found to steer remarkably well. The forecastle of the boat forms a cabin 10 feet wide, 6 feet long, and 4 feet deep, into which women, children, and disabled persons may be put. It is furnished besides, with two grapnels, very proper to be thrown on board a wreck, to ride by. The grapnel ropes will assist the sufferers to remove and escape from the wreck to the boat. She is likewise equipped with masts and sails, and is as manageable with them, as any boat of her dimensions can possibly be. In a tempest however, she must be dismasted and rowed by fourteen men, with oars, 16 feet

long, double banked. The men are all fastened to the thwarts by ropes, and cannot be washed from their seats. As a pleasure-boat she answers extremely well. And with respect to safety I can say, that I have sailed in her from Brighton, round the Cornish coast to Conway, in North Wales, without any accident, though we experienced some dreadful weather on our Voyage."..... *Nicholson's Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts, vol.* xxii. *p.*25, *with the plan.*

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ANALYSIS OF 1808.

AN ODE, ADDRESSED TO THE PRINTERS OF THE BELFAST MAGAZINE.

Lectorem delectando pariterque monendo.

GOOD Messieurs Printers, SMYTH and LYONS,
Nurses and accoucheurs of science,
Plying aloft there, at your Magazine,
From *case* to *case* so nimbly roving,
Your ALPHAS and OMEGAS moving,
O'er Koster's* sable imps, supreme you reign:
Making them skip, like conscripts, to their places,
Where rank and file, arrang'd in iron spaces,
They form divisions, now, as grenadiers,
Again, as Voltigeurs, diffusely cracking,
Now overthrown, the rogues are sent a packing,
And heap'd in holes together, lie in tiers.

What will you cause these imps of yours to say?
When they *try back*, in order to display
A brief epitome of last year's wonders,
Will they, in terms of truth and candour state,
A faithful picture of a scene, replete
With statesmen's errors—military blunders?
One royal house dethron'd—another fled;
Commerce convuls'd—war's horrors widely spread—
Conventions—edicts—orders, and embargoes,
Arms—horses—powder—men, and cash in cargoes
To Spain transported, there to reinstate
King FERDINANDO, on his father's seat,
Restore the inquisition, and replace
In monkish splendor, all the monkish race.

Should these same imps of Bonapart' say ought;
Take the advice of one by prudence taught,
Of BONI always as you go along,
Say "every action of his life was wrong,"
Call him "a monster—tyrant—hell-hound—thief,
Robber--and murderer--hypocrite; in brief,
Pour torrents of abuse upon his head,
Else—what you say of him, will ne'er be read.

Should LUSITANIA chance to be the theme,
VIMERIA's battle, or—they must not name
The officer commanding, but assert,
"That every British soldier did exert
His native prowess, and that victʼry flew,
From rank to rank, commanding to pursue
The routed Gauls, till General SUPERSEDE,
With raven's scream their martial ardour staid,
Croaking in accent like the voice of fate,
The dismal order—BRITISH TROOPS *retreat!*

This *favʼrite General*, what he is, or who,
Whether *Sir Arthur—Harry*—or *Sir Hew!*
INQUIRY DOTH NOT TELL! and therefore, mum,
Mynheer Van Koster must, on this be dumb.

Should Spanish patriotism next come on,
God knows, to praise it, all are very prone,
And much, *all like* a fashionable road:
Upon this subject, to remove all doubts,
And more sublimely sympathize our thoughts,
From OLD ALCÆUS—take the following ode:

"What constitutes a state?
Not high-rais'd battlement or labour'd mound,
Thick wall or moated gate,
Not cities proud with spires and turrets crown'd,
Not bays and broad-arm'd ports,
Where, laughing at the storms, rich navies ride,
Not starr'd and spangled courts,
Where low-brow'd baseness wafts perfumes to pride:

NO—MEN, high-minded MEN,
With pow'rs as far above dull brutes endued,

* Laurentius Koster, a citizen of Haarlem inventor of moveable types.

In forest, brake, or den,
As beasts excel cold rocks, and brambles rude:
Men, who their duties know;
But know their *rights*, and knowing, dare maintain;
Prevent the long aim'd blow,
And crush the tyrant while they rend the chain:

These constitute a state,
And sov'reign LAW, *that states collected will*,
O'er thrones and globes elate
Sits Empress, crowning good, repressing ill;
Smit by her sacred frown,
The fiend *discretion*, like a vapour sinks,
And e'en th' all dazzling *crown*,
Hides his faint rays and at her bidding shrinks, &c."

Perhaps this ode may teach us to explain,
Why, matters went not otherwise in Spain.
Now show some learning, 'twill obtain you fame,
And tell us all about the ancient name;
Ebra, a passage—*Shaphan* a rabbit*--mind,
In both these words, *Chaldaic* roots we find,
IBERIA and HISPANIA thence are brought,
Which quickly give the derivation sought,

Of VIRIATUS sing, and tell us how
The rugged Shepherd from his mountain's brow,
When *Roman Eagles* did his plains assail,
"Rush'd like a torrent down upon the vale,
Sweeping" their forces from the bloody field;
In various battles made their leaders yield;
And, for a season the confines of Spain,
From Rome's all-conqu'ring legions did maintain.

When foul corruption o'er the Senate reign'd
And civil strife with Roman blood had stain'd
The Campus Martius; great SERTORIUS view,
T' IBERIA's shores, retiring with a few
Of ROME'S LAST CITIZENS, and there erect
A new republic, with whose force he check'd†,
And in successive conflicts overcome,
All the *aristocratic power of Rome*.

His government on virtue founded rose
In strength superior to surrounding foes;
From his peninsula, he always drove
Each proud invaderwho against him strove;
Till vile *Perpenna* sunk in treach'ry's flood,
With factious dagger drank his sacred blood.

By luxury debas'd, the Roman name,
And Roman province soon a prey became
To VISIGOTHS led on by LEOVIGILDE,
Who many years, of Spain the empire held.

After long lapse, and many foreign shocks,
See fam'd PELAGIO, on ASTURIA'S rocks,
Defeat the crescent, reinstate the cross,
And drive the MOORS from SPAIN with little loss.

Now to your Imps, I vow and I declare,
All this historic lingo makes me stare:
How does it touch the present state of Spain?
Good Mr. Querist, "'tis an alter'd day,
SERTORIUS & co. (your Imps will say)
Good Lord!—were Heroes and commanded MEN!

Again, unto your Imps, I say, how? how?
Your Imps will say "such men are not there now;
For if they were, and ALL the SPANISH FOLK,
Determin'd to resist a tyrant's yoke;
The EMPEROR NAP, with his immense array,
In three short weeks, "*they'd drive into the Sea.*"

CALDERONE.

Edenteculio, Jan. 3, 1809.

To be continued.

* Spain has always been famous for Rabbits, as a proof that they still abound there, see *Bonaparte's* address to the *Corregidor of Madrid*.

† A bone for the Belfast Critics.

HOPE AND LOVE; AN ALLEGORY.

WHEN guilt had first provok'd the wrath of heaven,
And wretched man from paradise was driven;
Onward he mov'd with tottering steps and slow,
While every gesture spoke remorse and wo;
Dejected melancholy mark'd his air,
His darken'd features clouded by despair;
Without one cheering thought to soothe his breast,
He wander'd forth to seek a place of rest.
All nature seem'd his deep distress to share,
Gloomy the skies, and heavy felt the air;
The flocks no more their wonted sports pursu'd,
Nor birds, that joyless morn, their songs renew'd,
An awe-struck silence every creature kept,
Save, that alternately, Ere sigh'd and wept.

Wearied at length in body and in mind,
On a green bank their languid limbs reclin'd;
When Adam thus th' oppressive silence broke,
Amid deep sighs and groans the murmur spoke.
"O, thou great power! who mad'st us as we are,
And taughtst us to expect thy guardian care,
In pity take the life thy love bestow'd;
Without thy favour, grievous is the load.
Thy threat'ned death we earnestly implore,
O! let us sink to sleep and wake no more."
As thus he breath'd his thoughts in impious pray'r,
The heavens grew lighter, purer felt the air,
A glorious vision bless'd his wond'ring sight,
Array'd in silv'ry robes of ambient light,
A female form, surpassing all that's fair,
Her charms divine, her heavenly birth declare;
Our sire beheld with rapture, and surprize,
The piercing brightness of her radiant eyes;
Her graceful brows adorn'd with op'ning flow'rs,
Breathing the fragrance of celestial bowers;
Her wings of azure, ting'd with gold behind,
Like eve's bright clouds, that sail along the wind,
While o'er her form a soft'ning veil was thrown,
Through which each beauty more attractive shone,
Her snowy hand led forth a cherub child,
In whose bright face perpetual pleasure smil'd;
Soft as they tread, fresh flow'rets kiss their feet,
The birds with rapturous notes their presence greet.
Arrived—the fair one: Adam thus address'd,
Her tones harmonious thrill'd his glad'ning breast:
"Cease, mortals, thus to blame thy Maker's plan,
All heaven admires his won'drous love to man,
Behold he sends us from the realms above,
My name is Hope, this beauteous child is Love;
We come to ease thy cares, to soothe thy strife;
And soften all the rugged paths of life;
To all thy race our blessings shall extend,
But chief the virtuous ever most befriend,
With this celestial child to thee is given,
A foretaste of those joys prepar'd in heaven,
While I that heaven shall place before their eyes,
Attend through life, and guide them to the skies."
Here ceas'd her balmy words—but in his breast,
The glowing visions strongly were impress'd.

Mean time, fair Eve had caught the lovely boy,
And prest him in her arms with matron joy;
Had eas'd her weary head upon his breast,
And, like an infant, smil'd herself to rest.
Enraptur'd Adam, view'd her o'er and o'er,
And saw new beauties, still unmark'd before,
Then sunk beside her, and in sweet repose,
Forgot awhile, his blessing and his woes.
Morn's ruddy streaks soon chas'd the balmy night,
The glorious sun shed floods of golden light;
Young nature, vigorous from her short repose,
The grateful incense, heaven-ward, smiling throws;
All creatures wake to life, and peace, and joy,
And various powers in pleasing cares employ:
The glittering insects hum their matin song,
Unnumber'd birds their joyful hymns prolong,
The pearly dew falls off, in fragrant showers,
From spangled beds of brilliant op'ning flowers;
Last, man awakes, fresh as the new-born day,
While Love and Hope, within his bosom play:
From this blest morn, no more, he turns his eyes,
With lingering gaze, toward Eden's happy skies,
No more regrets those lovely blissful seats
But cheer'd by hope's gay scenes, his fortune meets,
Feels now his Paradise within his mind,
Gives heaven the praise, and meets its will resign'd.

Belfast, Dec. 28, 1808. DELIA.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine

TRANSLATION OF SOME OF THE CHORUSES OF ARISTOPHANES.

FROM THE COMEDY OF THE CLOUDS.

"The poet's eye in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heav'n to earth, from earth to heav'n,
And, as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unseen—the poet's pen,
Turns them to shape, and *gives to airy nothing,*
A local habitation, and a name."

THE Comedy of "the Clouds," was first acted under the Archon Isarchus, in the ninth year of the Peloponessian war (the first of the 89th Olympiad) at the Dionysial feasts. Its object was to hold up Socrates, who stood accused of introducing strange Gods, to public ridicule. The translator, struck with the harmony of the original, attempted to express in English, what he had admired in the Greek. No English version of these Choruses (so far as comes within his knowledge) has yet appeared. In the first, Socrates addresses Strepsiades (in debt) informing him of his erroneous opinions with respect to the Deities. He enforces the devotion due to Ether and the Clouds, and invokes them to become visible. On the close of this address, the Deities are personified, and one of the Clouds exhorts the sister Divinities, to attend to the prayer of Socrates. The third is a response, by another of the Clouds, in reply. The fourth introduces the Chorus, ascertaining the relative devotion due to each of the supreme powers. And the fifth, which closes the piece, supplicates their protection.

I.

CALM as that arch o'er nature spread,
When midnight's starry radiance glows,
When sleep the winds on Ocean's bed,
And earth and heaven at once repose,

Should be the time-worn man of age,
When choral hymns to heaven we raise,
When sacred rites the soul engage,
And solemn swells the voice of praise.

Thou Power supreme! earth circling air,
Through fields of light in motion driven,
Propitious hear thy suppliant's prayer,
And bear it to the gates of heaven.

Hail splendid Ether! ever bright,
With thee the air-borne clouds reside,
Or tread thy courts in radiant light,
Or sweep the earth in thundering pride.

Ye sacred daughters of the air,
Children of light and maids of power,
Accepted be the votive prayer,
And bless'd the solemn festal hour.

Whether Olympus' heights you sweep,
Or with the sea-nymphs, hand in hand,
Ye tread the mazes of the deep,
And mingle in the choral band:

Whether in soft and graceful ease,
A while you cease from pleasing toil,
Or sweep in pride the billowy seas,
Or bear aloft the waves of Nile:

Or by Mœotis' banks reclin'd,
On roseate beds you love to lie,
Your tresses floating unconfin'd,
Light-varying in the rain-bow die.

Then, when our sacrifice delights,
When swells the hymn through fields of air,
When pleasing rise our genial rites,
Deign nymphs divine, these rites to share.

II.

SISTERS—Daughters of the air,
As late on Ether's wing ye past,
Say, heard you not the voice of prayer,
Slow moving on the western blast?

Come, let us rise from Ocean's bed,
These splendent robes of light unfurl'd,
Shall sweep the cloud-capt mountain's head,
And shed a radiance on the world.

Come, mark the prospect stretching wide,
The fruits of earth at distance scan,
Or from Olympus' summit glide,
And trace the sacred seat of man.

No strangers we to human kind;
Confest through nature shines our power,
'Tis ours to give the hoary rind,
Or bathe in dew the vernal flower.

Resplendent flames the Delian light,
Our parent source, the God of day;
And backwards rush the shades of night,
As on he moves the pathless way.

Come, mark the prospect stretching wide,
The fruits of earth at distance scan,
Or from Olympus' summit glide,
And trace the sacred seat of man.

III.

VIRGINS! bearers of the rain,
Sea-born Sisters of the main,
On airy wing through Ether mov'd,
Approach the shrine by Pallas lov'd,
Where form'd of erst the martial band,
That press'd the plains of Cecrop's land.
The choral hymn of praise invites,
The mystic fane—th' unspoken rites.
There rites divine, and vows are paid,
To Athens' guard, the blue-eyed maid;
Still in the temple's massy dome,
Can heaven's tenant find a home;
There festal rites their cares employ,
The choral hymn, their boast, their joy,
There crown'd with flowers those rites appear,
Each season of the circling year,
When spring her genial influence yields,
And decks in dew-clad robes the fields:

The festal dance each soul delights,
And pleasing swell the Bromian rites,
Then glows the breast with living fire,
Then lightly sweeps the choral lyre,
The flute deep-breathing joins the sound,
And air-borne music floats around.

IV.

When issuing from our hallow'd fanes,
Ascending swells the voice of song,
When choral hymns and mystic strains,
Religion's sacred rights prolong:

Then first we hail the name of Jove,
Whose power nor man, nor God withstands,
Self pois'd he shakes the realms above,
Or hangs the earth on airy bands.

Then Neptune, ruler of the main,
Whose circling arms round nature hurl'd
Binds in a massy rock-wove chain,
The solid fabric of the world.

To Ether next ascends the prayer,
His are the joys from health that flow,
To Ether, sovereign prince of air,
Who bids the breast with rapture glow:

And sacred hymn, and mystic song,
Proclaim the solemn festal hour,
When borne on passing winds along,
Our rites appease the Loxian power.

Beneath his car with lightning's speed,
High-prancing to the signal-sound,
Light bounding flies the generous steed,
And thunders on Olympic ground.

Through heaven's high portals, ever bright,
Untir'd he moves in mystic plan,
And pours the fluid beam of light,
Rever'd by gods, ador'd by man.

V.

Where Cynthia's rose-clad summits swell,
There sacred Phœbus loves to dwell,
There may our votive incense find,
The friend of Gods, and human kind.
And thou chaste Dian, power divine,
Dread goddess of the Ephesian shrine,
To thee, light swells from sacred shades,
The festal hymns of Lydian maids,
When air-borne forms adorn the groves,
Of Athens, land of many loves.
Minerva first of powers above,
Thou shaker of the shield of Jove,
We hail in choral circling band,
The goddess of our natal land;
And Bacchus next the strain employs,
The God of mimic sportive joys,
Whose filmy veil, and magic power,
Can hide the pang of sorrow's hour,
With light-form'd hopes the mind beguile,
And plant on miseries cheek a smile.
Now solemn swells the voice of praise,
To where Parnassian torches blaze,
Ascending to th' aerial band,
The sacred guards of Athens' land.

Dublin. WALSINGHAM.

LITERATURE, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

OBSERVATIONS ON ROMANCE, FROM THE FRENCH OF LA HARPE

GOOD romances are the history of the human heart; but they did not assume this character on their first appearance among us. The most ancient, such as "The Romance of the Rose," may not have been useless for the improvement of our language at a time when it was not thought worthy of being employed in the composition of serious writings. I freely confess, I have never been able to read either that or "Astrea," notwithstanding the latter is much more modern, and was very much admired at the beginning of the last century. Some traits of simplicity, some pastoral images which may have been pleasing at a time when we were unprovided with better models, cannot make amends for verbosity and bombast, unless among professed philologists, men of reading and etymologists, who take delight in penetrating into the dark antiquities of our language, to explore its ancient jargon, and who think their patience sufficiently rewarded when they have been able to discover some roots of modern words, or to quote some happy phrase. Every body takes the nourishment he likes best: we even see this antiquated idiom introduced into modern productions, and writers of the eighteenth century imitating the language which was spoken in the twelfth. In the romances of the present day, the style of "The Fair Maguelon" and of "Pierre de Provence" is used. Some people discover wonderful invention in this species of imitation; as for me, who am unacquainted with such refinement, I can

only see an easy method of freeing ones-self from the shackles of style and genius.

Nor have I been able to read "Clelia" or "Cepus" to the end; each of which has been the subject of the well directed satire of Boileau; nor the "Ariana" of Dessmarets still more worthless, yet not less esteemed. 'Tis not for want of inclination, but I cannot read what wearies me.

In these cases we must always recollect the expression of Voltaire; *How lucky it is to come at a proper time!* Madame Scudery, with her long romances, acquired a great celebrity, at least till the time in which Despreaux reduced them to their true value. The people of that day were seized with a frenzy for portraits, and this lady did not fail to draw those of all the celebrated characters of her own day, under ancient names. Every one was flattered at the idea of having a place in this gallery of pictures. Mademoiselle de Rambouillet appeared there under the name of Artenice; this she always preserved even in the funeral oration which was composed to her memory: and the modesty of the solitary students of the Port Royal was not proof against the petty vanity of seeing themselves drawn in flattering colours in these lying compositions, which at the same time their taste rejected, and the rigour of Jansenism disapproved. They admitted those books which they considered poisonous, though in reality their only poison was their tediousness; we may, at least, be certain that self-love had sufficient power to blend a little of its honey with what they styled the venom of these writings.

The master-piece of this kind of romance (if we ought to apply such a term to any of them) is undoubtedly "Cleopatra," notwithstanding its enormous length, its endless conversations, and its descriptions, over which we must leap with all our might, the complication of twenty different intrigues which have no apparent connection, and escape the best memory, the monstrous wounds which excite no terror, and to which Madam de Sevigne had no dislike, the laughable resurrections and the princesses who never draw forth our tears. With all these faults, which are repeated in "Cassandra" and "Pharamond," Calprenede had genius; his heroes have an elevated mien; his characters are boldly designed; that of Artabanes has passed into a proverb. It is true that this proverb itself exposes the absurdity of the exaggeration; but, in a word, the works of this author breathe a spirit of heroism although often of an extravagant kind, and may furnish useful lessons to those who attempt tragedy, provided they guard against the excess into which Crebillon has fallen, who, inflamed with the study of books of this kind, has transferred the taste and style of romance into his theatrical pieces.

It has long been the fashion to laugh at heroines of romance, with whom the most respectful declaration is an offence of such magnitude that it cannot be expiated but by years of penance. But nothing of this kind can be compared with "Polexander," of M. de Gomberville, in five huge volumes of a thousand or twelve hundred pages each, which abound with a folly so extraordinary that it gives courage to attempt a cursory perusal of them. The Princess, who is the heroine of this formidable work, is one Alcidiana, the most extraordinary creature that human imagination ever conceived. She is beloved by all the monarchs in the world, and ambassadors come from all corners of the universe to demand her in marriage. Those who could not aspire so high are contented to declare themselves her knights at five or six hundred leagues distance, break lances to her honour, and cease to look upon any other woman in the world, after having once seen the portrait of Alcidiana. It would at first appear that such distant homage could not be attended with bad consequences, and that the lady must be very captious who would take offence at it. Yet the princess is highly displeased; she takes it extremely ill that the great Khan of Tartary, and the King of Cashmire should have the boldness to fall in love with her though at some distance. In short, to be enamoured of Alcidiana, even at the distance of a thousand leagues, is a crime deserving of death, except in

Polexander, the hero of the romance, to whom alone she had granted permission to love her, because after all it is necessary that some one should obtain this favour. Polexander therefore travels round the world defying all he meets; and when he has killed one, wounded another, dethroned this king, imprisoned that one, and obliged all to give their word that they would never dare to say that they were in love with Alcidiana, he returns to his mistress who deigns to honour him with a look, but cannot yet endure the idea of marrying one whom she has caused to commit so much slaughter. He finds as much difficulty in the thought as herself, and even after he is married to her, can scarcely persuade himself that a mortal man can be the husband of Alcidiana, and that he is the happy mortal; his head grows giddy, when he is about to ascend the stair-case which leads to his wife's apartment; two squires are obliged to support him on his way up, and the story terminates, before we are fully assured that his life is out of danger.

It must be acknowledged that we have been imitators in every thing, in our faults as well as in our beauties. We have borrowed, from the hot and unruly imaginations of the people of the south and west, among whom learning flourished before it arrived at our latitude, the ridiculous extravagance of character which at first reigned in our great romances. We imitated the Spaniards, who in turn had copied from the Arabians. It is in the writings of these latter that we discover the originals of princes who are in love with the likeness of a princess at the other end of the world, and who sometimes never existed, as we find it in the adventures of a prince spoken of in the Arabian Nights, who traverses the whole world in search of the object of a passion to which the sight of a portrait had given birth, and who, at the end of, I know not how many years, is informed by a sage, that the princess of whom he is enamoured has been one of the mistresses of Solomon. The enthusiastic gallantry of the Castilians and Arabians, their exalted passions, their invincible Paladins, who dispose of the destiny of kings and empires, all such ideas beyond nature and probability governed our literature at the time when the Spanish power was paramount in Europe, and led us to adopt its dresses, its festivals, and its tournaments: thus it is that the history of taste is always united with that of manners. We may say more; it was with these extravagant inventions, as it is with all errors, which are originally founded on some degree of truth. The passion of love, among the Asiatic and southern nations, had in fact, a degree of enthusiasm which the western nations imitated, without being able to equal, and which the ambitious imagination of our writers of romance aimed at surpassing, even though the attempt led them to the height of absurdity. With respect to the hero, the actions of Du Guesclin in Spain, and of Warwick in England, both of whom had overturned and re-established thrones, at a time when kings not possessing great bodies of mercenary troops, and great trains of artillery, depended more on the abilities of those about them, and on the vicissitude of fortune; examples such as these seemed to afford some foundation for the supposition of adventurers, whom our romances represent as making and unmaking kings, but attended with circumstances totally void of all shadow of probability.

The spirit of the court of Louis XIV. during the youth of that prince, who was somewhat of a romantic turn, was at first favourable to these extravagant fictions, and the parts which had been played by women in our civil wars, the all powerful influence they had enjoyed, accustomed our writers, to attribute an extraordinary degree of weight to a sex which always governs where it is not a slave. They certainly overleaped the bounds, 'tis always so at the commencement: real taste leads us back to nature. The force of ridicule exploded all these heroic extravagancies with which we had been inundated by Spain; we had long paid the tribute of imitation to the writers of this country: they were our masters, as the Italians had been, when we composed our histories on their novels, and that our poetry, with a few exceptions, breathed the affectation of Petrarch, without possessing his harmony or elegance. At length Boileau and Racine

taught us to imitate nature and the antients, and to feel that love is better painted in twenty verses of the fourth book of the Æneid, than in all the romances of modern Europe.

The first which relates a series of rational adventures recorded with interest and elegance, was that of "Zaida," the composition of a female. It is just that we should owe this first model to the natural and quick feelings which distinguish women of well cultivated minds. Nothing can be more affecting or original than the situation of Gonsalvo and Zaida, in love with each other in a desert, ignorant of each other's language, and both afraid that they had seen each other too late. The incidents arising from such a situation are a true and happy description of the emotions of passion. Though the rest of the work is not altogether equally interesting as the beginning, and though the character of Alphonzo, jealous of a dead man, and ready to quarrel with his mistress on his account, be somewhat too extravagant, yet the spirit of the romance is retained to the end, and it will always be read with pleasure. "The princess of Cleves" is another of Madame de la Fayette's compositions, still more amiable and affecting. Never has the combat between love and duty been described with greater delicacy; it has been granted only to another woman, at the end of another century to describe, with equal success the struggles of love, against obstacles, and against virtue. "The Count de Comminges," by Madame de Tencin," may be looked upon as the sequel of the Princess of Cleves.

To pass from Madame de la Fayette to Scarron, and from Zaida to the Comic Romance, is to go from good company to the tavern. But men of taste are not without indulgence for mirth; it is so entertaining; this book possesses much of it and of the best kind. The character of Rancune is lively, true and well drawn; and many chapters, among others that of the boots, are treated with much pleasantry. The style is natural and animated; it is even purer than that of any other writing of the same author. We may pass over all the novels which he has taken from the Spaniards, or in which he has imitated their taste. I would infinitely prefer Ragotin to those insipid love scenes and frigid intrigues. His Virgil travestied is insupportable at the end of two pages. Jodelet and D. Japhet are disgusting, totally unworthy of the French stage. The comic romance is infinitely superior; to speak correctly it is all that remains of Scarron; and what has been now mentioned contains the best of the romances of the last age; for Gil Blas belongs to ours; and Mademoiselle de la Force, author of "the Secret History of Burgundy," and Mademoiselle d'Aulnoy, author of "Hyppolitus, Earl of Douglas," a romance of some talent, are but imitators of Madame de la Fayette, far inferior to their model in the art of invention and writing.

HISTORICAL INACCURACY OF SALLUST.

IT appears to me a somewhat singular circumstance that, as far as I can conjecture, no notice has been hitherto taken of a very egregious historical inaccuracy into which Sallust has fallen, in the speech which he has attributed to Cato, on the subject of the conspiracy of Cataline. The passage I allude to, is as follows:

"Apud Majores nostros, Titus Manlius Torquatus, *bello Gallico*, filium suum quod is contra imperium, in hostem pugnaverat, necari jussit."

"In the times of our forefathers, Titus Manlius Torquatus, in the *Gallic war*, ordered his own son to be executed, because he presumed to fight against the enemy, contrary to his express command."

To a person even slightly acquainted with the occurrences of the Roman History, it will instantly occur, that the death of Manlius Torquatus' son did not happen during this war with the Gauls, but with that in which the Romans were involved with their neighbours, the Latins; the similarity of dress, customs, discipline, language, &c. &c. which prevailed in the two adverse armies, made it necessary to enforce the strictest attention to the orders of the general. Considerations not at all necessary to be attended to in the contest with their Trans-Alpine antagonists.

The inaccuracy may have arisen in the mind of the historian, by the

following confusion of historical occurrences.

Titus Manlius, the father, signalized himself in the Gaulish wars, by killing a warrior of gigantic stature, and stripping him of his golden collar, for which he received the *Agnomen* of *Torquatus*. See Livy, b. vii. c. 9.

Titus Manlius, the son of the former, was likewise equally signalized for his victory over Metius, the general of the Latin cavalry. See Livy, b. viii. c. 7.

It might have happened that the two circumstances with respect to the father and the son agreeing in so many points, had been confounded by Sallust. But what makes his inaccuracy wholly inexcusable, is that in the speech of Cato he gives the *Agnomen Torquatus*, in addition to the original name of T. Manlius, which should have brought to his mind the circumstances of the Gaulic war, and have served to guard him against this confusion of facts.

The error may be considered a trivial one: perhaps it may be so, but, I hope, this will not expose me to the imputation of hypercriticism on the subject. In fact I have considered it no small heightening of the tragic scene, exhibited in the execution of the younger Manlius, that he suffered for his temerity in braving the orders of his general, to prove that the valour of the son had not degenerated from that of the father. In dilating on the inaccuracy of Sallust, I have rather sought an opportunity of exhibiting the fact in a point of view more interesting than can be expected from not reflecting, that young Manlius pleaded in excuse for his breach of discipline, that in accepting the challenge of Mutius and slaying him, he only proved himself the descendant of him who had exhibited the same process against the gigantic Gaul. Who is there who feels not the agonizing reflections which must have crossed the mind of his father, when he found himself compelled for *such* a fault, to offer the youthful warrior as a sacrifice to the safety of Rome.

Newry, 1st Dec. 1808. W.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The First, Second and Sixth Books of Euclid's Elements, Demonstrated in general Terms, with Notes and Observations for the use of younger Students; by John Walker, late Fellow of Dublin College. 8vo. *price* 4*s.* 7*d. Dublin printed by John Napper, 29. Capel-street, and sold by the author, 73 Lower Dorset-street, B. Dugdale, Dame-street, and M. Keene, College-green.*

A GENTLEMAN (of Bristol if we remember aright) some few years back invented a mode of instructing pupils in the Elements of Euclid, by means of figures of timber, constructed in imitation of the diagrams, by which two notable advantages were obtained; more employment was cut out for that useful class of men, the *country carpenters*, and whenever a pupil was learning his lesson by the help of those *wooden assistants*, he might be said to have his business at his *finger's ends*.

But though we give all due credit to these devices, we must confess they are not of sufficient consequence, or merit to make us adopt or approve of them in the education of pupils, at any stage of life. By persons in the habit of instructing in the mathematics, it must have been frequently noticed how much young pupils are inclined to reason *specially* in that science, and with what difficulty they are brought to apply the principles of it generally. The difficulty is not a little increased by the unhappy though unavoidable use of letters, in the description of the sides or angles to be expressed. Where the lines or angles can be so easily pointed out by the pupil to the master, to retain the letters in proving the propositions, is only an incumbrance, and serves but to bind down the pupil's mind to the individual proposition; their only use consists in their being a substitute for the *finger* of a master, and

when they have acted in that capacity so as to effect a full demonstration, in the mind of the learner, they should be rejected altogether as superfluous, and consequently as an obstacle to that brevity and clearness so essentially necessary in mathematical reasoning.

The application of the wooden figures, already alluded to, is liable to too many objections, to require a serious refutation. It will be almost impossible to prevent a learner, on such a plan, from imbibing the idea that the science of mathematics emanates from, and is inherent in matter, and to a pupil labouring under such an impression, the higher geometry must be found to be a road strewed with thorns and briars.

The intention of the book under consideration is to do away this contracted mode of reasoning almost uniformly adopted by young students, from some of the reasons above-mentioned, and from the "*particularities of the diagram*," an intuition (as far as it could be accomplished consistent with existing circumstances) for which the public in general, and the student in particular, are deeply indebted to the author. The demonstrations (with a very few exceptions) are more concise than those adopted even by Elrington*, and are expressed at the same time with such clearness as to be evident to every capacity; the preliminary observations on these, those on the definitions of the first book, the Postulates and the axioms are such as may be read with advantage, even by the more advanced student. Those which are found interspersed in the body of the work, will amply repay the reader for his trouble.

In the observation on the 29th Prop. book the 1st. the following remarks on the deficiency of self-evidence in the 12th axiom of the 1st. Book. deserve particular notice. "Various have been the attempts of mathematicians, to remedy this imperfection; but, I believe, I may pronounce that not one of them has perfectly succeeded. If it be admitted that there cannot be drawn 2 right lines parallel to the same right line, this proposition will easily follow, and upon the whole, I think that this principle might be advantageously substituted for Euclid's 12th axiom, which seems capable of being illustrated by it, and is therefore one remove further from self-evidence." We hope in the next edition of this work, the author will make an application of this principle, so as to do away the *reproach* of Geometry.

It appears from cursory remarks made in the book before us, and the compendium of Logic, published by the same author, that "he has not followed the leadings of his own judgment or taste in the above works." It is to be presumed from these remarks, and the subjects on which he has employed his pen, that he undertook the tasks principally with a view to benefit the Students of the Dublin University, a circumstance to be regretted, particularly in the definitions of the 5th book, a portion of the Elements in which he laboured under the alternative, either of abiding strictly by the definitions, as laid down by Elrington, or of endeavouring to illustrate them by means to which the minds of the generality of the students are unaccustomed; in either of which cases little advantage can be looked for, and we conceive it would be infinitely better to make a trifling innovation in the system of teaching mathematics in the university, than to allow the 6th Book to be got over, aided by definitions, either committed merely to memory or attempted to be illustrated by principles totally unknown to the Student. The innovation we recommend, is the introduction of the elements of Algebra as a preparatory to the Elements of Euclid,† or at

* The propositions 7, 11, 15, 21, &c. in Mr. Walker's Euclid, compared with the same in Dr. Elrington's edition, will enable the reader to ascertain the fact.

† The following may serve as a specimen of the alteration suggested; suppose for example, it were required to give the pupil an idea of the 10th Definition; a little knowledge of Algebra, would enable him to understand the following proof. Let a, ax, ax^2 be 3 terms of a Geometrical Ratio—now if the 1st and 3d terms be $\times$ by a, it can be easily proved that the ratio remains the same, that is that $a : ax^2 :: ax : ax^2$, whether x, be considered a whole number or a deci-

least such part of them as might lead to a clear view of that necessary preliminary to an accurate knowledge of the 6th book, *a knowledge of ratios.*

As Mr Walker has turned his attention to the initiatory parts of the scientific course of the Under-graduates in the Dublin University, we trust he will not stop here. The remainder of the course equally needs his corrections and emendations, and from the specimens he has already afforded us of his manner of handling philosophical subjects, and from his general character for talents and erudition, we have every reason to augur most favourably from his interference. W.

Letters on the Subject of the Catholics, to my Brother Abraham, who lives in the country; by Peter Plymley, esq. the eleventh edition; London, printed for J. Budd, 1808; *p.p.* 175; *price* 5*s.* 6*d. English.*

THESE entertaining and interesting letters, come within our plan of noticing such works as more peculiarly relate to Irish affairs; for in them the witty and ingenious writer advocates with the combination of pointed raillery and close argument, the cause of the emancipation of the Catholics of Ireland. Indeed we have never witnessed a closer union of wit and argument than in these letters:—for while we laugh, we are insensibly convinced. We think it augurs favourably of the encreasing liberality of the English public, that these letters have reached the eleventh edition; we must of course suppose they have passed through many hands, and we think they cannot fail to have made many converts to the cause of justice and sound policy.

In the first letter he ridicules the dangers to be dreaded from popery, and speaks of the attempt to make the King's coronation oath a plea against further relaxation; here follows an extract on this subject, and also on the general tendency to persecution in former times:

"In 1778, the ministers said nothing about the royal conscience; in 1793 no conscience; in 1804 no conscience. The common feeling of humanity and justice then seem to have had their fullest influence upon the advisers of the crown: but in 1807—a year, I suppose, eminently fruitful in moral and religious scruples (as some years are fruitful in apples, some in hops)—it is contended by the well paid John Bowles, and by Mr. Percival (who tried to be well paid) that, that is now perjury which we had hitherto called policy and benevolence! Religious liberty has never made such a stride as under the reign of his present Majesty; nor is there any instance in the annals of our history, where so many infamous and damnable laws have been repealed, as those against the Catholics, which have been put an end to by him: and then, at the close of this useful policy, his advisers discover that the very measures of concession and indulgence, or (to use my own language) the measures of justice, which he has been pursuing through the whole of his reign, are contrary to the oath he takes at its commencement! I found in your letter the usual remark about fire, faggot, and bloody Mary. Are you aware, my dear priest, that there were as many persons put to death for religious opinions under the mild Elizabeth, as under the bloody Mary? The reign of the former was, to be sure, ten times as long; but I only mention the fact, merely to show you that something depends upon the age in which men live, as well as on their religious opinions. Three hundred years ago, men burnt and hanged each other for these opinions; time has softened Catholic as well as Protestant; they both required it; though each perceives only his own improvement, and is blind to that of the other. We are all the creatures of circumstances; I know not a kinder and better man than yourself; but you (if you had lived in those times) would certainly have roasted your Catholic: and I promise you if the first exciter of this religious mob,

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mal, and thus can be proved, that if the number of terms be n, the ratio of the 1st is to that of the last, as $a^n - 1$ to a^{n-1}, $^{n-1}$ *i.e.* as those powers of the 1st and 2d terms of the progression whose exponents are the exponents of x in the last term.

To comprehend the above, it is only necessary for the pupil to be instructed in the Algebraical methods of multiplying, adding, dividing and subtracting.

had been as powerful then as he is now, you would soon have been elevated to the mitre. I do not go the length of saying, that the world has suffered as much from Protestant as from Catholic persecution; far from it: but you should remember, the Catholics had all the power, when the idea first started up in the world, that there could be two modes of faith, and that it was much more natural they should attempt to crush this diversity of opinion by great and cruel efforts, than that the Protestants should rage against those who differed from them, when the very basis of their system was complete freedom in all spiritual matters."

On the degradation suffered by Catholics, he thus remarks. "It is, in great part, that narrow and exclusive spirit which delights to keep the common blessings of sun, and air, and freedom from other human beings. "Your religion has always been degraded, you are in the dust, and I will take care you never rise again. I should enjoy less the possession of any earthly good, by every additional person to whom it was extended." You may not be aware of it yourself, most reverend Abraham, but you deny their freedom to the Catholics upon the same principle that Sarah, your wife, refuses to give the receipt for a ham or gooseberry dumplin: she values her receipts, not because they secure to her a certain flavour, but because they remind her that her neighbours want it:—a feeling, laughable in a priestess, shameful in a priest, venal when it with-holds the blessings of a ham, tyrannical and execrable when it narrows the boon of religious freedom."

It is painful to reflect that it is yet necessary to state the advantages of toleration; but late occurrences show that this is not yet an unnecessary task. Our author in a style of raillery and sound argument peculiarly his own, adduces the instances of Scotland and Hungary to show the futility of persecution, and the advantages of toleration.

"If the great mass of the people, environed as they are on every side with Jenkinsons, Percevals, Melvilles, and other perils, were to pray for divine illuminations and aid, what more could Providence in its mercy do, than send them the example of Scotland? For what length of years was it attempted to compel the Scotch to change their religion! Horse, foot, artillery, and armed prebendaries were sent out after the Presbyterian Parsons, and their congregations! The Percevals of those days called for blood: this call is never made in vain, and blood was shed; but to the astonishment and horror of the Percevals of those days, they could not introduce the book of common prayer, nor prevent that metaphysical people from going to Heaven *their* true way, instead of *our* true way. With a little oatmeal for food, and a little sulphur for friction, allaying cutaneous irritation with one hand, and holding his calvinistical creed in the other, Sawney ran away to his flinty hills, sung his psalm out of tune his own way, and listened to his sermon of two hours long, amid the rough and imposing melancholy of the tallest thistles. But Sawney brought up his unbreeched offspring in a cordial hatred of his oppressors; and Scotland was as much a part of the weakness of England then, as Ireland is at this moment. The true and only remedy was applied; the Scotch were suffered to worship God after their own tiresome manner, without pain, penalty, and privation. No lightnings descended from heaven; the country was not ruined; the world is not yet come to an end; the dignitaries, who foretold all these consequences, are utterly forgotten; and Scotland has ever since been an increasing source of strength to Great Britain. In the six hundredth year of our empire over Ireland, we are making laws to transport a man if he is found out of his house after eight o'clock at night. That this is necessary, I know too well; but tell me why is it necessary? It is not necessary in Greece, where the Turks are masters.

"It is impossible to think of the affairs of Ireland without being forcibly struck with the parallel of Hungary. Of her seven millions of inhabitants, one half were Protestants, Calvinists, and Lutherans, many of the Greek church, and many Jews: such was the state of their religious dissensions, that Mahomet had often been called into the aid of Calvin, and the crescent often glittered on the walls of Buda and of Presburg. At last, in 1791, during

the most violent crisis of disturbance, a diet was called, and by a great majority of voices a decree was passed, which secured to all the contending sects the fullest, and freest exercise of religious worship, and education; ordained (let it be heard in Hampstead) that churches, and chapels should be erected for all on the most perfect equal terms, that the Protestants of both confessions should depend upon their spiritual superiors alone, liberated them from swearing by the usual oath, "the Holy Virgin Mary, the Saints, and chosen of God," and then the decree adds, "that *public offices and honours, high or low, great or small, shall be given to natural-born Hungarians who deserve well of their country, and possess the other qualifications, let their religion be what it may.*" Such was the line of policy pursued in a diet consisting of four hundred members, in a state whose form of government approached nearer to our own than any other, having a Roman Catholic establishment of great wealth and power, and under the influence of one of the most bigotted Catholic courts in Europe. This measure has now the experience of eighteen years in its favour; it has undergone a trial of fourteen years of revolution such as the world never witnessed, and more than equal to a century less convulsed: what have been its effects? when the French advanced like a torrent, within a few days' march of Vienna, the Hungarians rose in a mass; they formed what they call the sacred insurrection to defend their Sovereign, their rights and liberties now common to all; and the apprehension of their approach dictated to the reluctant Bonaparte the immediate signature of the treaty of *Leoben:* the Romish hierarchy of Hungary exists in all its former splendour and opulence, never has the slightest attempt been made to diminish it; and those revolutionary principles, to which so large a portion of civilized Europe has been sacrificed, have here failed in making the smallest successful inroad.

"In talking of the impossibility of Catholic and Protestant living together with equal privilege under the same government, do you forget the Cantons of Switzerland? You might have seen there a Protestant congregation going into a church which had just been quitted by a Catholic congregation, and I will venture to say that the Swiss Catholics were more bigotted to their religion than any people in the whole world.—Did the kings of Prussia ever refuse to employ a Catholic? Would Frederick the Great have rejected an able man on this account? We have seen Prince Czartorinski, a Catholic secretary of state in Russia: in former times, a Greek patriarch and an apostolic vicar acted together in the most perfect harmony in Venice; and we have seen the Emperor of Germany in modern times entrusting the care of his person, and the command of his guard to a Protestant Prince, Ferdinand of Wirtemberg. But what are all these things to Mr. Perceval? He has looked at human nature from the top of Hampstead-hill, and has not a thought beyond the little sphere of his own vision. "The snail," say the Hindoos, "sees nothing but its own shell, and thinks it the grandest palace in the universe."

On the subject of retaining ancient prejudices, and dignifying them with the title of the *wisdom of our ancestors*, as if length of time could justify error, or that ancient errors were entitled to more respect than modern ones, hear our witty author.

"I have often thought, if the *wisdom of our ancestors* had excluded all persons with red hair from the house of commons, of the throes and convulsions it would occasion to restore them to their natural rights. What mobs and riots would it produce? To what infinite abuse and obloquy would the capillary patriot be exposed; what wormwood would distil from Mr. Perceval; what froth would drop from Mr. Canning! how (I will not say *my*, but *our* Lord Hawkesbury, for he belongs to us all) how *our* Lord Hawkesbury, would work away about the hair of King William, and Lord Somers, and the authors of the great and glorious revolution! how Lord Eldon would appeal to the Deity, and his own virtues, and to the hair of his children: some would say that red-haired men were superstitious; some would prove they were Atheists; they would be petitioned against as the friends of slavery, and the advocates for revolt; in short, such a corruption

of the heart and the understanding, is the spirit of persecution, that these unfortunate people (conspired against by their fellow-subjects of every complexion) if they did not emigrate to countries where hair of another colour was persecuted, whould be driven to the falsehood of perukes, or the hypocrisy of the Tricosian fluid."

Many remarks occur in these letters on the bad policy of with-holding emancipation from our Catholic fellow subjects, and on the measures of our general policy, which we are tempted to give as further extracts.

"Out of sight, out of mind, seems to be a proverb which applies to enemies as well as friends. Because the French army are no longer seen from the cliffs of Dover; because the sound of cannon was no longer heard by the debauched London bathers on the Sussex coast; because the *Morning Post* no longer fixed the invasion sometimes for Monday, sometimes for Tuesday, sometimes (positively for the last time for invading) on Saturday; because all these causes of terror were suspended, you conceived the power of Bonaparte to be at an end, and were setting off for Paris, with Lord Hawkesbury, the conqueror: this is precisely the method in which the English have acted during the whole of the revolutionary war. If Austria or Prussia armed, Doctors of divinity immediately printed those passages out of Habbakkuk, in which the destruction of the Usurper by General Mack, and the Duke of Brunswick, are so clearly predicted. If Bonaparte halted, there was a mutiny or a dysentery. If any one of his Generals were eaten up by the light troops of Russia, and picked (as their manner is) to the bone, the sanguine spirit of this country displayed itself in all its glory."

"Our conduct to Ireland, during the whole of this war, has been that of a man who subscribes to hospitals, weeps at charity sermons, carries out broth and blankets to beggars, and then comes home and beats his wife and children. We had compassion for the victims of all other oppression and injustice, except our own. If Switzerland was threatened, away went a treasury clerk with a hundred thousand pounds for Switzerland; large bags of money were kept constantly under sailing orders: upon the slightest demonstration towards Naples, down went Sir William Hamilton upon his knees, and begged for the love of St. Januarius they would help us off with a little money; all the arts of Machiavel were resorted to, to persuade Europe to borrow; troops were sent off in all directions to save the Catholic and Protestant world; the Pope himself was guarded by a regiment of English Dragoons; if the Grand Lama had been at hand, he would have had another; every Catholic clergyman who had the good fortune to be neither English or Irish, was immediately provided with lodging, soup, crucifix, missal, chapel beads, relics, and holy water; if Turks had landed, Turks would have received an order from the treasury for coffee, opium, korans, and seraglios. In the midst of all this fury of saving, and defending, this crusade for conscience and Christianity, there was an universal agreement among all descriptions of people to continue every species of internal persecution; to deny at home every just right that had been denied before; to pummel poor Dr. Abraham Rees and his Dissenters; and to treat the unhappy Catholics of Ireland as if their tongues were mute, their heels cloven, their nature brutal, and designedly subjected by Providence to their Orange Masters."

"I am so far from conceiving the legitimate strength of the crown would be diminished by these abolitions of civil incapacities in consequence of religious opinions, that my only objection to the increase of religious freedom is, that it would operate as a diminution of political freedom: the power of the crown is so overbearing at this period, that almost the only steady opposers of its fatal influence are men disgusted by religious intolerance. Our establishments are so enormous, and so utterly disproportioned to our population, that every second or third man you meet in society gains something from the public: my brother, the commissioner; my nephew the police justice; purveyor of small beer to the army in Ireland; clerk of the mouth; yeo-

man to the left hand; these are the obstacles which common sense, and justice have now to overcome."

"I detest Jacobinism, and if I am doomed to be a slave at all, I would rather be the slave of a King, than a Cobler. God save the King! you say, warms your heart like the sound of a trumpet. I cannot make use of so violent a metaphor; but I am delighted to hear it, when it is the cry of genuine affection; I am delighted to hear it, when they hail not only the individual man, but the outward and living sign of all English blessings. These are noble feelings, and the heart of every good man must go with them; but God save the King, in these times, too often means, God save my pension and my place; God give my sisters an allowance out of the privy purse; make me clerk of the irons; let me survey the meltings; let me live upon the fruits of other men's industry, and fatten upon the plunder of the public."*

It is now proper to quit making further extracts, though we could give many more, which we doubt not would entertain our readers, but we cannot resist the inclination to bring forward one more, on the subject of the expedition to Copenhagen. We have never viewed this transaction but with sorrow, and have many times sighed over the honour of our country, and the unblushing effrontery by which it was defended by many of our countrymen. This act has ranked us among the plunderers of Europe, and left us little room to exclaim against the encroachments of Bonaparte. Our hands are not sufficiently clean to appear against him in the court of conscience. We also lamented the departure in this instance from the *old morality*, because we feared the vindication of such political departure from rectitude, would imperceptibly injure the nice feelings of private morality, in the breast of individuals.

"Was there no other way of protecting Ireland but by bringing eternal shame on Great Britain, and by making the earth a den of robbers? See what the men whom you have supplanted would have done. They would have rendered the invasion of Ireland impossible, by restoring to the Catholics their long lost rights; they would have acted in such a manner that the French would neither have wished for invasion, nor dared to attempt it; they would have encreased the permanent strength of the country, while they preserved its reputation unsullied. Nothing of this kind your friends have done, because they are solemnly pledged to do nothing of this kind; because to tolerate all religions, and to equalize civil rights to all sects is to oppose some of the worst passions of our nature; to plunder and to oppress is to gratify them all. They wanted the huzzas of mobs, and they have for ever blasted the fame of England to obtain them. Were the fleets of Holland, France and Spain, destroyed by larceny? You resisted the power of one hundred and fifty sail of the line by sheer courage, and violated every principle of morals, from the dread of fifteen hulks, while the expedition itself cost you three times more than the value of the larcenous matter brought away. The French trample upon the laws of God and man, not for old cordage, but for kingdoms, and always take care to be well paid for their crimes. We contrive, under the present administration, to unite moral with intellectual deficiency, and to grow weaker and worse by the same action. If they had any evidence of the intended hostility of the Danes, why was it not produced? Why have the nations of Europe been allowed to feel an indignation against this country, beyond the reach of all subsequent information? Are these times, do you imagine, when we can trifle with a year of universal hatred, dally with the curses of Europe, and then regain a lost character at pleasure, by the parliamentary perspiration of the foreign secretary, or the solemn asseverations of the pecuniary Rose? Believe me, Abraham, it is not under such ministers as these that the dexterity of honest Englishmen will ever equal the dexterity of French knaves; it is not

* "God continue the war, that my son may rise in the army," is the loyal effusion of many a parent. CRITIC.

in their presence that the serpent of Moses will ever swallow up the serpents of the Magicians."

We take leave of this lively writer by recommending the perusal of the book to our readers, and we think our booksellers might find their interest in importing some copies of it. The writer is not blind to Catholic errors any more than to other errors. He is not so enamoured of his subject as to treat it like his mistress, whom he "loved not only in spite of her failings, but even for her very failings." But he shows the bad policy of with-holding emancipation from our Catholic brethren, or attempting to coerce opinions by political disabilities. Let truth stand on its own foundation, without the props of human authority, or of human prejudices, which only disfigure the venerable structure. K.

A Letter addressed to the late Grand Jury of the county of Armagh, with some observations on the subject of Tithes and mode of collecting them; by a Killeavy weaver. 1808; *Dublin, printed by John King. p.p.* 16. *price* 10*d.*

THE assumed name of a Killeavy weaver is not appropriate, for we believe few weavers in this country are so well acquainted with the writings of Junius, Montesquieu, Blackstone, &c. as to quote familiarly from them. Passing by this inconsistency, let us examine the purport of the letter.

Our readers are already acquainted with the proceedings of the two last grand juries of the county of Armagh, on the subject of tithes, as referred to in our political retrospect, for December, written before we saw this pamphlet. This letter appears to have been written previous to the last assizes, and successfully combats the unfair attempt made to turn public attention from the subject of tithes, by recriminations about rents and county taxes; "the one," says the writer, "a heavy tax, laid on industry and agriculture, the tenth, not of the *produce* but of the *profit* of the farmer: to pay a clergy, who do not *always* perform their part of the compact, by doing what they are paid for; the other (county tax) a fluctuating tax laid on the people by themselves for the good of the community at large; a taxation falling on the richer, and flowing immediately into the pockets of the poorer, eventually tending much to the civilization and improvement of the country, by facilitating communication, by public buildings, and by public institutions; a tax necessarily encreased by a war, as far as relates to the support of the families of the militia; in short it is a tax hitherto paid without a murmur, and levied without oppression."

Although we are far from denying that jobbing exists in many instances in presentments of grand juries (indeed we know they often do exist, and that they bear hard on the poorer landholder) yet we are decidedly of the judgment, that the attempt to involve the subject of tithes with this extraneous matter, was merely to lead away from the investigation of the mode in which tithe had been collected in some parishes in that county, and as a departure from fair reasoning deserves reprobation.

The author pleads only for a change in the mode of the payment of tithes; he says, "they were the institutions of *man, and have grown rank by the cultivation of man.* They may still answer the purpose of their institution as to the support of the clergy, and become oppressive and *intolerable* to the people, in the mode of exaction; and when the people think they have become so, they have a right to ask redress in a constitutional manner; in that way they now complain, and in that way they now ask redress; and the people seldom complain without reason, and ought never to be heard without attention."

Several instances are adduced to show by what means ingenuity has been exerted to lay aside bargains for tithes, when they are supposed by the incumbent, to become disadvantageous to him, to which the writer adds, "The Bishops approve of, or at least are silent on, such occasions: they sit unmoved at such transactions."

The subject of tithes is of the highest importance to the welfare of this country. May it be often brought into

public view, and discussed with diligent attention and firmness, though with great calmness and moderation!

K.

Odes Choires de Horace traduites en vers François pas Mons. de Montville professeur de langue François, 2 tom. p.p. 406. Dublin, Downes, 1808.

A FRENCH translation of Horace, written and published in Dublin should attract our attention from its novelty. Our attention will be arrested when we find that the translation has been executed not without some degree of merit; and that the writer, though he has by no means completely succeeded by producing a version in all points worthy of the original, has demonstrated the practicability of what M. Dacier supposed impossible, the giving a poetic dress in the French Language to the prince of Roman Lyrists. Such an attempt if executed with any degree of ability is highly praise-worthy: for it must be the opinion of every one who has read a prose translation of a poet, that it gives no idea of the real beauties of the original. It is a lifeless corpse, a body without a soul; we may observe the proportion of the parts, nay we may have a better opportunity of discovering the internal mechanism, the artful arrangement and adaptation of the several members which produce such powerful effects on our minds, but we vainly look for that living principle, that spark of divinity, which gave life and spirit, and grace to it when living. To be convinced of this, we need but compare Macpherson's prose translation of the Iliad, with that of Pope or even of Cowper.

The work before us is a selection of some of the Odes of Horace; such perhaps, as most accorded with the writer's taste, or appeared to him best fitted to assume a modern habit. But before entering on any investigation of their merits, it may not be improper to mention the cause of their being written, for this should justly have some weight in determining our opinion of their merits. In doing this we give the author's own words. "While I was spending some time with a friend, at a dinner which followed the examination of the literary progress of his young pupils, whom he is preparing with the most attentive care for the fulfilment of the different duties which they will have hereafter to perform in the world, and whom he retains in the bounds of respect and duty, by a gentle discipline, which makes a much greater impression on the youthful heart, than a forbidding austerity; at this dinner, at which my friend as usual presided with the politeness and affability of a man of the world, I was asked to sing. As I was a stranger, though able to express my thoughts with fluency and correctness in English, I thought that a song in that language would possess little beauty in my mouth, and I knew that a French song would afford but little entertainment to a great part of the company. I therefore proposed *to sing an Ode of Horace.* My offer was unanimously accepted; a Horace was produced; and then *inter pocula* (over our cups) as the greater part of these charming and sublime songs have been composed, I sung some of my favourites; among the rest, *Jam satis terris;* and *Odi profanum vulgus.* The next morning, still inspired by my friend's excellent wine, and by the enthusiasm which the divine strains of that sweet writer had inspired the preceding evening, I attempted to translate some of them, particularly the two just mentioned; and on reading them, I judged them to possess sufficient merit to venture to show them to my friend and to another person of equal respectability, who, to use the words of my author is perfectly *doctus sermonis utriusque linguæ.* Both these, with several others, expressed their lively approbation of my *coup d'essai,* and assured me that if I did not continue the translation, they could attribute it to nothing but the most culpable indolence. Such encouragement induced me to attempt the work, and about the beginning of last October, I began my translation regularly."

With such motives for writing

we cannot be severe in our remarks. Indeed we have been so much amused at the politeness of the lively Frenchman, which exhibited itself in a form so original, that we proceeded in the perusal with a desire to find subjects for praise. By the bye we are somewhat at a loss to guess at the kind of air with which he accompanied the verses, nor can we help congratulating him on the select party he was engaged in, which, though unacquainted with French, could taste the beauties of a Latin ode. We have never been so fortunate. In whatever company we have joined, we venture to say that the greater part would have been equally at a loss, be the language what it might, except plain English: and at the same time must remark that our Anacreontic translator must be a great stranger to the manners of this country, or he would have known that singing in an unknown tongue is so far from being a breach of politeness, that it is now considered as an undeniable mark of superior refinement. The lovers of Italian music are often gratified with strains, which are equally unintelligible to the hearers, and to the fair performer who excites the extatic admiration of her enraptured, we had almost said, her *long-eared* auditory.

In the translation of a poet, so nervous and energetic as Horace, into a language, which together with the inferiority inherent in all modern European languages, labours under a peculiar barrenness of expression that weakens and unhinges it, the greatest difficulty to be contended with, is the unnerving and frittering away the dignity of the original, by employing periphrases necessary to convey the full meaning of the author. It was impossible to prevent this altogether, but M. de Monteville seems to have been aware of the difficulty and to have struggled against it in some cases with success. The ode, *O navis referent in mare,"* is translated concisely and is nearly, though not altogether free from this fault.

Navire infortuné! cesse, que vas tu faire?
Sur la mer en courroux voudrois tu t'exposer?
Ah! crois moi, reste au port, *ne quitte point la terre*
Evite le danger.
Ne vois tu pas tes bancs depourvûs de rames?
Par les vents Africains tes mats sont fracassés:
Sans cordages comment peux tu braver les lames
Dont tes flancs sont frappés.
Ta voile dechirée, helas! est inutile.
Tu ne vois plus de Dieux que tu puisse invoquer,
Enfant d'une forêt en nobles pins fertile,
Rien ne te peut sauver.
Le matelot timide, effrayé de l'orage,
N'a point recours aux Dieux sur ta poupe gravés
Crains donc de l'exposer aux horreurs du naufrage;
Crains les vents irrites.
O toi! qui me causas des peines si cruelles;
Et pour qui je ressens tant de chagrins amers,
Evites avec soin ces Cyclades horribles
Qui brillent sur les mers.

The following extract is, on the contrary, a striking example of the defect just alluded to, where we see a single line spun out to a complete stanza.

Te minor latum reget æquus orbem;
Tu gravi curru quaties Olympum,
Tu parum castis inimica mittes
Fulmina lucis.

The translation is as follows:

..... *toujours respectueux,*
Il verra sa grandeur a la votre seconde:
Content de son partage, il bornera ses voeux
A commander au monde.
Et vous—donnant aux Dieux de souverains loix,
Roulerez dans les cieux votre char redoutable;
Et vos mains lanceront sur nos profanes bois
Votre foudre implacable.

In some cases he is so far from confining himself to his author's expressions, that he contents himself with giving a sense somewhat similar, as in the following instance:

Quid si prisca redit Venus
Diductosque jugo cogit aëneo?
Si flava excutitur Chloe,
Rejectæque patet janua Lydiæ.

Which is thus translated, or rather imitated.

Mais si je reprenois ta chaine,
Si tu redevenois l'objet de mon amour?

Si rejettant Chloé, ma reine
A toi je consacrois le reste de mes jours.

The ode *Jam veris Comites*, which in our opinion would have better suited the hilarity of a convivial party than those selected by the translator, does credit to his talents. We shall quote a few of the first stanzas, referring the reader to the book itself for the remainder, and for several others in the same style.

Deja par les Zephyrs, compagnons du printems
Qui seuls calment les mers, nos voiles sont enflees;
Nos prés sous les frimats ne sont plus blanchissans;
Et de neige les eaux ne coulent plus gonflées.

Pleurant toujours Itys, l'objet de ses fureurs,
On voit deja le nid de la triste hirondelle;
Pour avoir trop puni de brutals ardeurs,
Elle est pour sa famille une honte eternelle.

De leurs joyeux haut-bois mêlés a leurs chansons,
Les bergers font deja retentir la prairie:
Et plaisent a ce Dieu, qui comble de ses dons
Les troupeaux bondissans, et les monts d'Arcadie.

The author states himself to be a teacher of the French language; we think his book may be extremely useful for the purposes of instruction; many students learn French and Latin at the same time; and this mode of study is thought, not without reason, to be attended with peculiar advantage; each elucidates the other. It serves much the same purpose as the double translations practised by Gibbon, and so strongly recommended by him. Even those who are unacquainted with Latin, will reap both pleasure and improvement, in attaining some knowledge of the original through this medium, which will at the same time give them some taste of the beauties of Horace, while it promotes their knowledge of a language now not only fashionable but necessary.

We have already been forced to pass some severe censures on the state of the Dublin press. This book proves we have not been singular or unjustly severe; at the conclusion of his preface M. de Montville claims a special indulgence on this score. "I intreat the reader's indulgence," says he, "particularly for the faults of the printing, which could not fail of occurring through the negligence and ignorance of the printers of this city, who do not understand a single word of either language, and, who, notwithstanding all the attention paid to correctness, always finish their part of the work by leaving a croud of errors." The book itself, and more especially the latter part, affords too many proofs of the justice of the complaint.

Le Comte de Corke Surnommé le Grand, ou Seduction sans Artifice suivi de cinq Nouvelles. Par Madame de Genlis; 12mo. 2 vols. p.p. 468. Colburn, London, 1808.

FROM the multiplicity of novels of a bad tendency, the name itself has fallen into disrepute. Yet we would be far from joining in the general outcry against them. They have been, no doubt, in many instances prejudicial to society, but they have also been in many others powerful auxiliaries to virtue. They are intimately connected with public manners, and these may justly be stiled minor morals, partly guiding, and partly following the prevailing fashions of the day; they have from the former cause, often deviated from their legitimate end, the improvement of the mind, and from the latter they have induced their admirers to deviate still farther from an attention to the same desirable object, by setting before them defective or vicious models of imitation. But the abuse hence originating must be remedied, not by the endeavour, in itself impossible, of banishing novels altogether from the libraries of those who make books the mirror in which their minds are fashioned, but by such a judicious selection, as will represent truth and morality and virtue in their proper forms undistorted by the mists of ignorance, or the perversions of intentional misrepresentation. An indiscriminate exclusion would deprive us of a fund of the most instructive entertainment. It is indeed pleasing to observe that though this description of writing still continues in many in-

stances to be the vehicle of insipidity, the vent for ill-natured and personal invective, and even the guide to immorality; many writers of the first ability have lately stept forward to vindicate its real merit, and by well-drawn pictures of the world in which we live, have given lessons of the utmost utility, particularly to the rising generation, into whose hands such books are likely to fall, to deter from vice, and to lead by well selected examples to the practice of those virtues which endear, elevate and ennoble the possessor. Why then has not the name of novel been yet rescued from the unmerited obloquy with which it has been so long aspersed? It is because vice floats on the surface, virtue lies below; the former forces itself on our sight, meets us in every street and avenue, flares in our places of public resort, nay, often insults us in our more select and retired society. The latter, silent and unobtrusive, must be sought for before it be sufficiently known to obtain its due tribute of respectful imitation. We daily see and hear of the bad effects of novel-reading; we can trace the rise of many a rake, debauchee and dissolute character to this source; most of the unfortunate females who shock the ears of modesty, and wring the heart of pity in the streets of our capitals, attribute, or affect to attribute their downfall to this cause; but we cannot see the many instances of youth and inexperience led along the path of rectitude and virtue by these silent and impressive monitors. If history be the preceptor of kings, biography is that of private persons; and what is a well constructed novel but a memoir, containing in itself the quintessence of biography, the metal without the dross.

It is unnecessary here to enumerate, or even to point out the best of this class; among many others who have directed their talents to this praiseworthy purpose, we might cite the respectable names of an Edgeworth, and a Hamilton, whose writings have reflected much honour on this country. In this class, the writer, whose publication has given rise to the preceding reflections holds a high place. Her writings, viewed in this light, bear the most rigid test; it is not that a moral may be extracted from them: the moral is evidently the primary intention, the narrative merely the clothing in which it is conveyed, so as to excite attention and interest. Commencing her career with a highly valuable treatise on education introduced in this popular form, she has continued during the course of a long life to pursue the same plan, to enforce the several duties, to animate to the several virtues of life by these unsuspected lessons, and even her latest writings though, perhaps, inferior to her former productions, deficient in the *purpureum lumen juventæ*, and tinged, though but slightly tinged, with the failure of declining years, still tend to the same end, and are the well-intended conclusion of the same design.

Several new works have lately come from the pen of Me. de Genlis. We have selected this, because it presents a portrait of a countryman, honourable to the Irish character, and worthy of the imitation of Irishmen. We have said, more than once, *Ireland is our station.* We repeat it: we glory in that national feeling, that *amor patriæ*, which turns all our thoughts, and bends all our exertions to the improvement of our native land. And we cannot but feel flattered that a foreigner, a native of a country whose predominant passion is national vanity, should have selected an Irishman as an example of a spirit of inbred honour triumphing over the most powerful and seducing impulses of the heart; and this feeling of honest pride is heightened by the consciousness that the figure here represented is not an ideal creature of the imagination, but a likeness drawn from nature. The piece is founded on historical facts; the most remarkable incidents of the early part of the life of the Earl of Corke, are preserved and interwoven with the narrative so as to appear to arise naturally during the train of circumstances.

Richard Boyle, the hero of the narrative, is represented as an orphan, who is indebted for his support and education to a benevolent man, who resides at a village a few miles distant from Dublin. Here he spent his days in obscure retirement, solely devoted to the improvement of his mind, and to the cultivation of a

garden, which surrounded the cottage, that the generosity of his patron had made his dwelling. External circumstances are the second causes even of the greatest events. The attention bestowed on his garden, brings into notice the qualities produced by the culture of his mind. The Earl of Essex, the prime favourite of Elizabeth, was at this time in Ireland, in a public capacity. And when at the Black-rock, which is here said to have been then as it was till a few years ago, a fashionable place of summer retirement for the people of rank in Dublin, he was struck with the elegant simplicity of the young cottager's retreat; curiosity induced him to examine it more particularly, and his admiration was soon transferred from the place to its owner. After a conversation with Richard, in which the English nobleman quickly discovered the germ of inborn greatness concealed beneath an external rusticity, he wrote on the young man's tablets the following words: *Richard Boyle will render his name illustrious.* To a soul formed for greatness, this was more than sufficient to inflame the latent sparks of ambition. His cottage, garden, books, were now but secondary objects; all his faculties were absorbed in the means of fulfilling the prediction of his new friend, whom he had already mentally fixed on as his future patron and present model. He becomes discontented; and at length prevails on his old patron to accompany him to London. On their journey thither, during the course of which some occurrences of inferior importance are made the vehicle of some useful lessons to his sanguine and inexperienced mind, they are informed that the Queen attended by Essex, is on a journey to the coast to review the navy. This information induces them to change their course. On their arrival they see, they are gratified with the sight of their sovereign; but this pleasure is damped in Richard, by observing that Essex had seen and passed him unnoticed. Dejected, but not discouraged, he resolves on another attempt to introduce himself, and follows the court to London. Essex had just quitted it on some public duty; and Richard mortified and humbled, returns to his cottage, there again to devote himself to his studies, until a more favourable opportunity occurs of gratifying the ruling passion of his breast.

But now a new impediment is thrown in the way of his present studies and future prospects. Lady Ranelagh, a widow, young, noble and beautiful, induced by the same motives which had led the former visitor to this spot, appears in his cottage. The first conversation gives rise to sensations never felt before. If he is struck with the charms of the stranger, she is equally affected with the singular contrast between the character and situation of Richard. After a variety of circumstances, the value of which those only who have loved can truly estimate; she also took her leave of this part of the country, leaving her young admirer lost in an indescribable labyrinth of contradictory sensations. But in this, as in the former case, he finds a new incentive to encourage him in the line of conduct he had before adopted. Honourable ambition is stimulated by love: he resolves, as he had before with respect to Lord Essex, to make himself worthy of lady Ranelagh.

A new character now presents itself. Sir Charles Manwood, who is employed in an official capacity in Ireland, hearing of Richard's qualifications, which had by this time been the theme of conversation, wishes to engage him as his private secretary. The young man induced by a desire of rising in the great world, and deprived of the society of his first friend, who had lately paid the debt of nature, accepts the offer, and accompanies his patron to his seat in the county of Wicklow. Here he unexpectedly meets the object of his passion, and in spite of her endeavours to keep him at a distance, and destroy his hopes, by an affected air of coldness and severity, a trivial expression which drops from her, discovers to his quick and awakened sagacity, that she is not insensible to his merits. From this time he acts with the confidence of a favoured lover, and though his respect withholds him from betraying the smallest symptom of his attachment, he finds daily means of informing her of it in private. Lady Ranelagh, who cannot brook the idea of having

set her affections on an object so much below her, treats him with increased rigour: but while he strictly adheres to the letter of her mandates, so completely adverse to his hopes, he acts in direct opposition to their spirit, and thus insensibly gains the heart of this high-minded female, who cannot but admire the perseverance and spirit with which he struggles against the accumulated obstacles which oppose the attainment of his purpose.

To be continued in our next.

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NARRATIVE of the Campaign which preceded the Convention of Cintra, by J. J. Stockdale, 4s.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

FROM month to month the field of foreign politics becomes more contracted; war has visited almost every part of the Continent, from the frontiers of Russia to the Straits of Gibraltar. Denmark and Sweden, Prussia and Poland, Holland and Switzerland, Germany and Italy, have, in turn, been scorched with the flames, and what, at one time, threatened an universal conflagration upon the Continent, may be said to have gradually burnt out, and unless fresh fuel be administered, will probably be soon totally extinguished. Much the greater part of Europe enjoys a state of comparative and unusual tranquillity, and war is now confined to a southern peninsula, almost set apart from the rest of the Continent.

It is remarkable, that France and England, the two great hostile powers, have hitherto experienced least of the war in its immediate and most disastrous effects. They have both, by different means, employed their power and their policy to avert the conflict from their own, into other countries. Those countries have supplied the fields of battle, and in a great degree have suffered the consequences, whether as enemies to France, or auxiliaries of Britain. How much longer this policy of the contending powers can be pursued with the same success, is becoming every day more doubtful. After having battled it through the circuit of Europe, the question now is coming home, *where* the war which took its rise in France, is about to terminate?

Without giving any answer to this question, we should rather be inclined to assert, from the aspect of affairs abroad, and their natural influence on those at home, that every thing approximates gradually, though but slowly, to general peace, *necessary* peace. Endless war with all the world, appears to us nothing better than a re-publication of Don Quixote, with splendid additions, and the new idea of keeping a *floating* army on the coasts of Spain, ready to make predatory incursions upon different parts of the peninsula, much as the Danes, in former days, were accustomed to make on England and Ireland, such a mode of warfare will redound little to the interest, and less to the glory of Great Britain. Her character will, by such a splenetic invasion, be placed on a level with the Buccaniers of South America, in the opinion of Europe.

Our Retrospect of foreign politics for the present month is therefore happily abridged. Spain, and the American States are the chief, if not the only subjects of observation, for as to the victory at Vimiera, and the convention of Cintra, these visions of glory and of disgrace now begin to fade in the remembrance, and most people will join in thinking of the latter event, that the sooner it is forgotten, the better. Another convulsion has indeed taken place in the epileptic government of TURKEY, and Mustapha Bariactar, the grand Vizier, has been obliged to fly, along with the grand Signior himself, on board one of the Turkish fleet, for attempting to reform the military establishment. Such a reform, will probably never be effected, by such intestine revolutions. Turkey itself, must be subjected to a powerful conqueror from abroad, who may have the will and ability to crumble the Janissaries into their original dust; to break and disperse them into individual particles; to abolish their institution fully and finally, not by half measures, nor by forming and training before their faces, a rival institution, against which they vow vengeance, and in secret whet their sabres. Until a radical revolution take place, Constantinople will be doomed to see for ever, what it has seen, a hideous succession of headless Sultans, and a brute populace from time to time illumined only by the glare of periodical conflagrations. To those who refer, and justly refer, the happ ness of nations to the salutary influence of wise and equitable government, combined with the mild fraternity of the Christian religion, it must afford pleasure to contrast the

convulsionary state of the Turkish empire, with the

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"From Hudson's Bay (to make an appropriate quotation) from Hudson's Bay, with the small interruption of Canada, to the Missisippi, this immense continent beholds the religion of Jesus, unconnected with the patronage of government, subsisting in independent, yet friendly communities, breathing that universal charity which constitutes its vital spirit, and offering, with its distinct yet blending tones, one grand combination of harmony, to the ear of its heavenly father." Such is the aspect of these states with regard to religion, and as a *political* power, in despite of British parties, we must, in the impartiality of human nature declare, that it sustains its dignity, and sovereign independence, more decisively, and with more sublime self-denial, than any nation has done on the continent of Europe. In a most difficult, critical, and dangerous situation, they conduct the affairs of their government so as to make it respected, if not feared by the great hostile powers; and as every nation in Europe, by becoming a party in the contest, has renounced all mediation, we know not where impartial neutrality necessary to the character of mediator will be found upon the globe, unless it be sought for across the Atlantic, in the Congress of America.

Notwithstanding the mutual aggression of the belligerent powers upon their sovereignty, as well as their indisputable right to navigate the ocean; notwithstanding the capture of their vessels, the impressment of their seamen, and the maritime war carried on against them, *their* retaliation amounts only to the adoption of a preservative system, which may, at least, for a time avoid the evils of war, and consist with their independence; such a system, as secured them *at first*, the distinction of a sovereign nation. In consequence, they resolve that they cannot submit to the late edicts of Great Britain or France, without a sacrifice of their rights, honour, and independence; they prohibit all entrance into their ports of all vessels belonging to either of the hostile powers, and all importation of goods from any of their dominions; and they agree to take the most effectual and immediate measures for placing the country in a more complete state of defence. We feel a confidence that peace in Europe will supersede these preparatives of war, and that the wise, energetic, and consistent deportment of America will be most materially instrumental in the accomplishment of this truly glorious event. Glorious indeed, if the new world, so lately savage, would be able to mediate the peace of Europe, so long civilized, and in return for the evils, suffered and suffering from the vindictive animosities of rival powers, would pour a pacific oil, upon the tossing of their turbulent passions; and smooth with the spirit of Christianity the agitations of their inordinate ambition.

SPAIN.

The city of Madrid surrendered on the 4th instant, to the French, under a humiliating capitulation, the whole of the regular army in garrison, being made prisoners of war, and the peasantry disarmed and dispersed to their respective villages. The actuating motive of Spanish resistance has been religious zeal, rather than public spirit. The sacred name of patriotism has been circulated from *mouth* to *mouth*. Juntas have pledged their lives and fortunes. Governors have sworn to bury themselves in the ruins of the places they had to defend. But, than all the reliques of their religion, better would it have been to have consecrated with appropriate zeal and fidelity, a single stone from the *ruins of Numantia*.

The whole city of Madrid, thirty thousand fathers of families, were on the 24th, rushing in crouds to the altars, where the *priests* are attending to administer the oath of fidelity to their *new* sovereign.

The autocrat of France has not lost a moment to follow up his military successes, by what may be called political victories. The inquisition annihilated; the system of alienating by donation or sale, the right of collecting the public revenues, abolished; the abolition of feudal rights, and manorial jurisdictions, peculiarly oppressive upon the people; the limitation of monasteries; the better main-

tenance of active pastors; the act of amnesty, with few exceptions; all these may be considered as so many battles gained over the central junta, and which it has lost by its hesitation, its improvidence, or its selfishness. This central junta is now at Seville, in the southern extremity of Spain.

On the 22d, Bonaparte is said to have left Madrid to meet Sir John Moore, who had made a junction with the corps of Sir David Baird. This junction, however it might have been obstructed by the weather, or the bad condition of the roads, never seems to have met any hindrance on the part of the enemy, very probably with a view of drawing on the whole army further into the heart of Spain; from the defiles of Gallicia into the plains of Leon, or old Castile. After being stationary a considerable time (from 15th ult. to 16th inst.) which has not hitherto been well accounted for; Sir John advanced on the 16th from Toro to Carrion, in the way to Saldanha, with a view of attacking Soult, who was in that quarter, with about 16,000 men; but on hearing that he was reinforced, and by a letter from *Romana on his left*, that the French were advancing from Madrid, Sir J. Moore lost no time to secure his retreat. In all the partial skirmishes of the cavalry, the British, though inferior in numbers, appear to have been successful, and whether this was in consequence of the *Parthian* system, adopted often by the French, with a view of accomplishing their greater object, is hard to determine. Sir John Moore, it is said, had not many hours to lose in making good a retreat, without prosecuting the attempt upon Soult, which it is probable was a leading object; for surely his now professed one of making with an army of 40,000 men, a mere diversion in favour of the Spaniards in the south, *at a great risk*, as he acknowledges, to his own army, can scarcely be deemed an adequate reason for his forward movement; and how can that diversion be deemed "complete," which does not appear to have met with any correspondent movement in the south (30,000 French having been left at Madrid) while at the same time it exposed the British force if not to great disaster, at least to the consequences of a retreat, which must in itself always greatly dispirit, and in doing so, debilitate an army. Had he advanced farther, Sir John Moore would probably have had Buonaparte in his front, and Soult in his rear.

ENGLAND.

Parliament met on the 19th. They are informed in the King's Speech, delivered by commission, "that the only way of obtaining a safe and honourable peace, is by a vigorous prosecution of the war; that overtures of peace were rejected, of which a preliminary condition was the abandonment of Spain, with which country, in addition to the royal assurance of support, there has been formed a treaty of friendship and alliance, including the king of Sweden, and which only waits for *ratification*; that with a revenue continuing to flourish, the contest may be carried on without additional burthens, that the plan for a local militia has succeeded, and that steps are to be taken for the increase of the regular army."

And never surely in the history of Great Britain has there occurred a period in which there was a like dictatorial necessity "for the general council of ablest men, chosen by the people, to consult of public affairs, from time to time, for the public good." Never surely was it more necessary than at the present period, to establish through the medium of parliament, such a community of interest and reciprocity of obligation, between the government and the *whole* people, as may raise a barrier against that colossal power which threatens the extinction of all the ancient monarchies of Europe. This surely is not the time when any new watch-word will be raised, or any old one revived, that may effectually divide and distract the inhabitants of these countries, inclosed and beleaguered as they are like to be, in a circumvallation of European hostility. Will the cry of Jacibonism be again raised against those who assert that a vigorous prosecution of the war, has turned out a very round about road to the at-

tainment of peace; that it seems rather to have aggrandized the power of the enemy, and to have had a revolutionary effect in the different states of Europe, than to secure their permanence and establishment? Bonaparte is a strange conjunction of the jacobin and the despot.—But we are interrupted by the calamitous tidings of the day, which render us unwilling and unable to make at this time, further review of the past. All retrospect must give way to the force of the present impression. Let us make the pause of nature and sympathy....one of the finest armies that ever left the shores of Britain, with difficulty able to effectuate its retreat to Corunna; and during their march from the 26th ult. to the 11th inst. in continual skirmish with the enemy. A battle upon the 16th, in which their gallant general was killed, and the second in command most severely wounded: an embarkation immediately after, under every disadvantage, that must, under such circumstances, attend the evacuation of the country. Is the nation, after all these events, to acquiesce in the pious resignation of Mr. Canning, who is satisfied to assign them all to the Supreme Disposer, without any examination of secondary causes, which must have led to such a disastrous termination of the campaign. Our home defence must shortly be the sole object, and we trust that the great conncil of the nation will not be so dilatory as the Central Junta of Spain, in taking the most effectual measures for the safety and UNION of these countries. "Ne quid detrimenti respublica capiat."

IRELAND.

Twelve capital convictions at Limerick, and the arrival of Sir Arthur Wellesley at *Holy-head*, forms the summary of Irish history for the last month, and for such occurrences we know not whether to condole with, or to congratulate our country.

We gladly take this occasion of acknowledging an error we were led into in our last retrospect, by quoting an extract from an address to the king, as having come from the Presbyterian Synod of Ulster. That body, we are since assured, "did not address the king last year, nor have they at any time addressed his Majesty in the language imputed to them." We were led into the error by having copied the extract alluded to, from a respectable newspaper of this place, in which it had been published on the 5th of December, and although re-published in several other papers, remained without contradiction or disavowal, until the 23d January. We were therefore led to believe the document authentic, and we fell in with the general deception on the subject. We are happy that such public disavowal has taken place, because even tacit acquiescence might be liable to misinterpretation, and because, from *whatever body* the address did come, there is now no danger of that body being confounded, either by inattention or design, on *either* side of the water, with the SYNOD of ULSTER.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

His Majesty, in virtue of the powers reserved to him by two certain Acts, passed in the 48th year of his Majesty's Reign, the one intituled "An Act for granting to his Majesty, until the end of the next Session of Parliament, Duties of Customs on the Goods, Wares and Merchandises therein enumerated, in furtherance of the provisions of certain Orders in Council;" the other intituled, "An Act for granting to his Majesty, until the end of the next Session of Parliament, certain Duties on the Exportation from Ireland of Goods, Wares, and Merchandises therein enumerated;" is pleased by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that, until further Orders shall be made herein, the operation of the aforesaid Acts be suspended as to any Duties on Exportation granted by the said Acts, so far as relates to Articles being the growth, produce, or manufacture of any country for the time being in amity with his Majesty, and from the ports of which the British flag is not excluded, which Articles have been or shall be imported direct from such Country into any port or place of the United Kingdom, either in British ships, or in ships of the country of which such articles are the growth, produce, or manufacture.

And his Majesty is further pleased, with the advice aforesaid, to order, and

it is hereby ordered, that the operation of the aforesaid Acts be, in like manner suspended, as to any Duties on the Exportation of Goods, Wares, or Merchandize which have been, or may be condemned as prize.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(Signed) W. FAWKENER.

SPAIN....CAPITULATION

Proposed by the Military and Civil Junta of Madrid, to his Imperial and Royal Majesty the Emperor of the French.

Art. 1—The preservation of the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Religion, without any other being legally tolerated.

Answer—Granted.

Article 2—The liberty and security of the lives and properties of the citizens and other persons in Madrid, as well as of those in public employments: the preservation of their situations, or the option of their retiring from this court, if they should prefer it. Likewise, the lives, privileges, and properties of the secular and regular ecclesiastics of both sexes, together with the respect due to the churches, all in conformity to our laws and customs.

Answer—Granted.

Article 3—The lives and properties of all military officers of rank are likewise to be safe.

Answer—Granted

Article 4—No person shall be liable to persecution, on account of their political opinions or writings, any more than those employed in a public capacity, for what they may have done hitherto in the exercise of their employments, or in obedience to the former Government; nor shall the people suffer for the efforts which they have made for their defence.

Answer—Granted.

Article 5—No other contributions shall be exacted beyond the ordinary ones that have hitherto been paid.

Answer—Granted till the realm shall definitely be organized.

Article 6—Our laws, customs, and courts of justice shall be preserved in their present constitution.

Answer—Granted, until the kingdom undergoes its definitive organization.

Article 7—The French troops and their officers shall not be quartered in private houses, but in military lodging houses and tents, and by no means in convents or monasteries; the privileges allowed to the respective classes by the laws being preserved.

Answer—Granted, it being well understood that both the officers and privates must have quarters and tents that are furnished conformably to the military regulations, unless the said buildings be insufficient.

Article 8—The troops shall march out of the town with the honours of war, and be at liberty to retire whithersoever they chuse.

Answer—The troops shall march out with the honours of war; they shall march off by files to-day at four o'clock in the afternoon, and leave their arms and cannon: the armed peasants shall also leave their arms and artillery; after which the inhabitants shall retire to their houses, and those from without the town to their villages.

All individuals that have enlisted among the troops of the line four months ago, shall be free from their engagements, and retire to their villages.

All the rest shall continue prisoners of war till an exchange takes place, which shall commence immediately between equal numbers, and rank for rank.

Article 9—The public debts and engagements of the State shall be faithfully and constantly discharged.

Answer—This being a political object belongs to the cognizance of the assembly of the realm, and depends on the general administration.

Article 10—Those Generals who wish to continue in the Capital, shall preserve their rank; and such as are desirous of quitting it, shall be at liberty so to do.

Answer—Granted; they shall remain in their station, although their pay can only continue till the kingdom receives its ultimate organization.

Additional eleventh article.

A detachment of guards shall this day, at four o'clock, take possession of the Palace gates. The different gates of the city shall, about the same time, be delivered up to the French army.

The guard-house of the body guards, and the general hospital, shall be surrendered to the French army at the same time.

At the same hour, the Park of Artillery and the Arsenals, together with the Engineers, shall be surrendered to the French Artillery and Engineers.

The works and entrenchments shall be levelled, and the streets repaired.

The French officer about to take the command of Madrid, shall, about mid-day repair, under a military guard, to the house of the Principal Governor in order to concert with Government, regulations of Police, and measures for the re-establishment of good order, and public security, in all parts of the town.

We the undersigned Commissioners, authorized by the full powers for settling and signing the present Capitulation, have agreed upon the faithful and entire execution of the above measures.

FERNANDO DE LA VERAY PANTOGA,
THOMAS DE MORLA,
ALESANDRO.

Imperial Camp at Madrid, the 4th of December, 1808.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

NAPOLEON, EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, KING OF ITALY, AND PROTECTOR OF THE CONFEDERATION OF THE RHINE.

"Considering that the troubles in Spain have been principally the effect of plots, carried on by several individuals, and that the greater part of those who joined in them have been either misled or deceived, wishing to pardon these, and to grant an amnesty for the crimes which they have committed against us, our Nation, and the King our Brother, wishing also to mark those who, after having sworn fidelity to the King, have violated that oath; who, after having accepted places, have only used the authority which was confided to them to betray their Sovereign, and who, instead of employing their influence to enlighten the citizens have only used it to mislead them; and wishing, lastly, that the punishment of great offenders may serve as an example in future times to all those, who, placed at the head of Nations, instead of directing the people with wisdom and prudence, mislead them, and lead them into disorders and popular agitations, and precipitate them into misfortunes and war.

"We have decreed as follows:

"1st. The Dukes of Infantado, of Higar, of Medina Celi, and of Ossuna, the Marquis of Santa Cruz, the Counts of Fernan, Nunez, and Allamera, the Prince of Castel Franco, the Sieur Pierre Cevallos, Ex-Minister of State, and the Bishop of Santander, are declared Traitors to France and Spain, and Traitors to the two Crowns. As such their persons shall be seized and brought before a Military Commission and shot. Their property, moveable and immoveable, shall be confiscated in Spain, in France, in the Kingdom of Italy, in the Kingdom of Naples, in the Papal States, in the Kingdom of Holland, and in all the countries occupied by the French Arms, to defray the expences of the war.

[The second Article renders null and void, all sales, or other dispositions of their property.]

The third grants, in the name of Joseph Bonaparte, a pardon to all Spaniards who, within one month after the arrival of Bonaparte at Madrid, shall lay down their arms, and renounce all adhesion to, and connexion with England.

Neither the Members of the Juntas, nor General Officers, who have carried arms, are excepted from this pardon, provided they surrender as before-mentioned.

FROM OUR CAMP AT MADRID, DEC. 4.

NAPOLEON, &c.

Considering that the Council of Castile has shown in the exercise of its functions as much falsehood as weakness, and that after having published throughout the kingdom the renunciation of Charles IV. and of the Princes Don Fernando, Don Carlos, Don Francisco, and Don Antonio of the Crown of Spain, and after having acknowledged and proclaimed our legitimate rights to the throne, it had the baseness to declare in the eyes of Europe and posterity, that it had signed these documents with secret and perfidious reservations. We decree as follows:

1. That the Members of the Council of Castile are displaced as being cowards, and unworthy of being the Magistrates of a brave and generous Nation.

By the second Article, however, such Members of the Council as did not sign the Deliberation of the 11th August are excepted from this Decree.

FROM OUR IMPERIAL CAMP BEFORE MADRID, DEC. 4.

NAPOLEON, &c.

We decree as follows:

1. The Tribunal of the Inquisition is abolished, as incompatible with the Sovereign Power, and with the Civil Authority. 2. The property belonging to the Inquisition shall be sequestrated and reunited to the domains of Spain to serve as a guarantee for the vales, and other effects of the public debt.

NAPOLEON, EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, &c.

Considering that the Religious of the different Monastic Orders in Spain are too much multiplied;

That if a certain number be useful to assist the Ministers of the Altar in the administration of the Sacraments, the

existence of too considerable a number is injurious to the prosperity of the State:

We decree as follows:

ART. 1. The number of Convents at present existing in Spain shall be reduced to a third.

This reduction shall be produced by uniting the Religious of several Convents in one single house.

2. Dating from the publication of the present Decree, no admission to the Noviciate, no religious profession shall be permitted until the number of the religious of each sex shall have been reduced to the third of the number of the old religious now existing.

In consequence, and in the space of a fortnight, all the Novices shall quit the Convents into which they have been admitted.

3. All the regular Ecclesiastics who wish to renounce their usual living, and to live as secular Ecclesiastics, shall be free to quit their houses.

4. The Religious who shall so renounce, conformably to the preceding article, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of a pension, whose amount shall be regulated by their age, but which shall not be less than 3000 reals, nor exceed the maximum of 4000.

5. Upon the amount of the property of the Convents which shall be suppressed in execution of the first article of the present Decree, shall be raised the sum necessary to increase the proportion of the Cures, so that the minimum of the salary of the Curates shall be raised to 2400 reals.

6. The property of the suppressed Convents, which shall be disposable after the raising of the sum ordered by the foregoing article, shall be united to the domain of Spain, and to be employed as follows;

The half of the said property to guarantee the vales and other parts of the public debt.

PROCLAMATION BY BONAPARTE.

"SPANIARDS!—You have been misled by perfidious men. They have engaged you in a senseless struggle, and you have had recourse to arms. Is there one amongst you, who, after a moment's reflection upon all that has passed, would not be convinced that you have been the sport of the eternal enemies of the Continent, who take delight in witnessing the effusion of Spanish and French blood?—What possible result would attend even the success of some campaigns? An endless war upon your soil, and a tedious uncertainty respecting the fate of your properties and lives.

"Within the space of a few months, you have been delivered up to all the afflictions of popular factions. The defeat of your armies has been the work of some marches; I have entered Madrid; the rights of war would justify me in making a signal example, by washing away in blood the outrages offered to me and to my nation: but I have listened to the dictates of clemency only. Some men, the authors of all your calamities, shall alone be punished. I shall speedily drive from the Peninsula that English army which has been sent to Spain, not for the purpose of assistance to you, but to inspire you with a false confidence and to mislead you.

"I had declared to you in my Proclamation of the 2d of June, that I wished to be your Regenerator. To the rights which had been ceded to me by the Princes of the last dynasty, you wished that I should add the right of conquest. That shall not make any alteration in my intentions. I am even disposed to praise all that may be generous in your efforts; I am willing to admit, that your real interests have been concealed from you, that the real state of things has been disguised from you.—Spaniards, your destiny is in your own hands. Reject the poisons which the English have spread amongst you:—let your King be assured of your affection and your confidence, and you will be more powerful and more happy than ever you have been. All that obstructed your prosperity and your grandeur, I have destroyed; the chains which have borne down the people, I have broken; a free Constitution gives you a limited and constitutional, instead of an absolute Monarchy. It depends upon yourselves whether this Constitution shall still continue in your land.

"But should all my efforts prove fruitless, and should you not merit my confidence, nothing remains for me but to treat you as conquered provinces, and to place my Brother upon another throne. I shall then place the Crown of Spain upon my own head, and cause it to be respected by the guilty; for God

has given me power and inclination to surmount all obstacles.

"*Given at our Imperial Camp at Madrid, Dec.* 7, 1808.

(Signed)

"NAPOLEON."

"By the Emperor. Minister Secretary of State, (Signed)

"H. B. MARET."

The following is a copy of the address presented to his Majesty the Emperor, by the Corregidor of Madrid, in the name of the magistracy and citizens of that capital:

"SIRE—The city of Madrid, represented by its magistrates, secular and regular clergy, nobility and deputies of the wards, presents itself at the feet of your Imperial Majesty, to offer you its most respectful thanks for the gracious clemency with which your Majesty, in the conquest which your victorious troops have made of this city, has been pleased to think of the safety and welfare of its inhabitants, and the praiseworthy and beneficent treatment which your Majesty has been pleased to show towards them, and which the city of Madrid considers as a pledge of forgiveness for all that has occurred in the absence of our King Joseph, your Majesty's brother.

"The several colleges constituting this assembly, duly deliberating on the subject of their meeting, have concluded and resolved to entreat your Imperial and Royal Majesty, that it may please you to grant them the favour of seeing King Joseph in Madrid, that all the places under its immediate jurisdiction, and the whole of Spain, may at length enjoy that tranquillity and happiness which they expect from the benevolence of his Majesty's character.

"Finally, Madrid flatters herself that she shall find protection in the power of your Imperial and Royal Majesty, at the same time that your clemency guarantees her happiness.

"Sire!—At the feet of your Imperial and Royal Majesty."

Madrid, Dec. 9, 1808."

To this address his Majesty returned the following answer:

"I am pleased with the sentiments of the city of Madrid. I regret the injuries she has suffered, and am particularly happy that, under existing circumstances, I have been able to effect her deliverance, and to protect her from great calamities.

"I have hastened to adopt measures calculated to tranquilize all ranks of the citizens, knowing how painful a state of uncertainty is to all men, collectively and individually.

"I have preserved the spiritual orders, but with a limitation of the number of Monks. There is not a single intelligent person who is not of opinion that they were too numerous. Those of them who are influenced by a Divine call, shall remain in their cloisters. With regard to those whose call was doubtful, or influenced by temporal considerations, I have fixed their condition in the order of secular priests. Out of the surplus of the monastic property, I have abolished that court which was a subject of complaint to Europe and the present age. Priests may guide the minds of men, but must exercise no temporal or corporal jurisdiction over the citizens.

"I have accomplished what I owed to myself and my nation. Vengeance has had its due. It has fallen upon ten of the principal culprits; all the rest have entire and absolute forgiveness.

"I have abolished those privileges which the Grandees usurped during times of civil war, when kings but too frequently are necessitated to surrender their rights, to purchase their own tranquillity, and that of their people. I have abolished the feudal rights, and henceforth every one may set up inns, ovens, mills, employ himself in fishing and rabbit-hunting, and give free scope to his industry, provided he respects the laws and regulations of the police. The selfishness, wealth and prosperity of a small number of individuals, were more injurious to your agriculture than the heat of the dog-days.

"As there is but one GOD, so should there be in a state but one judicial power. All peculiar jurisdictions were usurpations, and at variance with the rights of the nation; I have abolished them.

"I have also made known to every one what he may have to fear, and what he may have to hope. I shall expel the English army from the Peninsula. Saragossa, Valentia, Seville, shall be reduced to submission, either by persuasion, or the power of my arms. There is no obstacle which can long resist the execution of my resolutions.

"But what transcends my power is this—to consolidate the Spaniards as one nation, under the sway of the King. Should they continue to be infected with these principles of aversion and hatred to France, which the partisans of the English and the enemies of the continent have infused into the bosom

of Spain; I can establish no nation, no independence of the Spaniards, if the King be not assured of their attachment and fidelity.

"The Bourbons can no longer reign in Europe. The divisions in the Royal Family were contrived by the English. It was not the dethronement of King Charles, and the favourite (the Prince of the Peace) that the Duke of Infantado, that tool of England, as is proved by the papers found in his house, had in view. The intention was to establish the predominant influence of England in Spain; a senseless project, the result of which would have been a perpetual Continental war, that would have caused the shedding of torrents of blood. No power under the influence of England can exist on the Continent. If there be any that entertain such a wish, their wish is absurd, and will sooner or later occasion their fall.

"It would be easy for me, should I be compelled to adopt that measure, to govern Spain by establishing as many Viceroys in it as there are Provinces. Nevertheless, I do not refuse to abdicate my right of conquest in favour of the King and to establish him in Madrid, as soon as the 30,000 Citizens which this capital contains, the Clergy, Nobility, Merchants, and Lawyers, shall have declared their sentiments and their fidelity; set an example to the Provinces, enlightened the people, and made the nation sensible that their existence and prosperity essentially depend upon a King and a free Constitution favourable to the people and hostile only to the egotism and haughty passions of the Grandees.

"If such be the sentiments of the inhabitants of Madrid, let the 30,000 citizens assemble in the churches; let them, in the presence of the holy Sacrament, take an oath, not only with their mouths, but also with their hearts, and without any jesuitical equivocation, that they promise support, attachment, and fidelity to their King; let the Priests in the confessional and the pulpit, the mercantile class in their correspondence, the men of the law in their writings and speeches, infuse these sentiments into the people:—then shall I surrender my right of conquest, place the King upon the throne, and make it my pleasing task to conduct myself as a true friend of the Spaniards. The present generation may differ in their opinions, the passions have been too much brought into action; but your grandchildren will bless me as your renovator: they will reckon the day when I appeared among you, among their memorable festivals; and from that will the happiness of Spain date its commencement.

"You are thus, Monsieur le Corregidor," added the Emperor, "informed of the whole of my determination. Consult with your fellow-citizens, and consider what part you will choose; but whatever it be, make your choice with sincerity, and tell me only your genuine sentiments."

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

HIBERNIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this Society was held at the Royal Exchange, on Monday the 14th Nov. 1808.—The Patron, his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, in the Chair. The Secretary read the report of the Committee for the last year, which was received, and is as follows:

At the last annual meeting of your society, your committee was entrusted with the important commission of procuring suitable patronage for the institution. To the accomplishment of this primary object, they immediately applied themselves, by communicating the nature and designs of the society to some of the first characters in Ireland, and soliciting their countenance and support. Your committee were highly gratified by the politeness and promptitude with which the most satisfactory answers were given to their communications; and could not but anticipate the most salutary result from the support of the noblemen and gentlemen who have come forward as patron, president and vice-presidents of the society.

"Your committee were convinced, that one extensive institution, pervading the whole country, having one grand fund, and acting on one plan, would contribute more to the general

circulation of the scriptures in Ireland, than the partial efforts of individuals, or even of local and isolated societies. Their attention was, therefore, directed to the extending of their institution, by the formation of branches of the society in such principal towns as their influence extended to; and though they have to regret, that, in some instances, their exertions have not been crowned with success, they have also the happiness of stating, that a second and highly respectable branch of the society has been established in Limerick, under the patronage of one of our vice-presidents, the Lord Bishop of that See. We have the pleasure of adding, that the efforts of your committee have given rise to a Bible Society in Cork, though not connected with us.

"In the course of the correspondence on these subjects, in which your committee was engaged, it was suggested that our former name, the 'Dublin Bible Society,' was of too local a nature; and that, as our exertions were to be bounded only by our country, it was expedient that our designation should be sufficiently general, to point out our sphere of action. In consequence of this suggestion, a general meeting was called, to which this subject was submitted; and by which our present denomination, the 'Hibernian Bible Society,' was unanimously adopted.

"The name of the society being thus changed, your committee published the report of the former year, with the names of the officers of the society, and a list of the subscribers. This publication has been extensively circulated, and not without effect in this, and the sister country. It has been the means of increasing the number of our members at home; and such was the favourable impression it made on the committee of the 'British and Foreign Bible Society' in London, that they presented us with the sum of £100 sterling, as a testimony of their good will, and for an encouragement to greater exertion in the good cause in which we both were engaged.

"Among the many instances of polite attention which your committee met with from several individuals, they cannot deny themselves the pleasure of noticing the conduct of the venerable and highly respected president of the Royal Irish Academy: when a deputation of their body waited on him for permission to hold the committee meetings in the Academy-house, he received them with the greatest kindness, entered warmly with them into the views of the society, and cheerfully complied with their request.

"Your committee have derived the greatest satisfaction from the gentlemen who constitute the committee of the Belfast branch of the society; their co-operation with us has been most cordial and active; they have laboured assiduously to increase our general fund, and likewise to establish a local fund for the more extended circulation of the Scriptures in their immediate vicinity. The plan they have adopted for this latter purpose, is worthy of imitation: they addressed a circular letter to the ministers of religion, of every denomination in Belfast and its neighbourhood, stating the objects of their society, and requesting them to have a collection made in each of their places of worship, on a particular day, in aid of the institution.

"During the time your committee have been in office, they have had repeated proofs of the necessity and usefulness of this society. A very general desire to purchase and read the bible is prevalent in the country; and yet in several parts the bible cannot be procured, at least, by the lower classes. A letter from a clergyman in a very populous district of the north of Ireland, stated to your committee, that the bible could not be procured there for any money. From this circumstance the society may judge what must be the case in those parts of the land where the people are less instructed, and where books are still scarcer. Of the usefulness of the society, the best proof is the following statement of the books circulated during the last year, viz.

Bibles - - - - -	2446
Testaments - -	2452
Total - - - - -	4898
Remain in the Repository:	
Bibles - - - - -	1567
Testaments - -	1362
Total - - - - -	2929

"Encouraged by the notice which his Grace the Duke of Richmond has taken of the society, by condescending to become a benefactor to it, your committee have presented a memorial to his Excellency, praying permission to circulate our communications through the country, free of postage. To this memorial we have not yet received an answer, as it is necessary his Grace should consult the Postmasters General, previous to his communicating to us his final determination.

"Your committee shall now lay before the society the state of their funds, which they regret to observe, are not so flourishing as they could wish.

State of the funds:

Received during the last year	£963	17	7
Expended do. - - - - - - - -	855	10	11
Balance in Treasurer's hands	108	6	8

"They shall conclude by urging on each member of the society, the necessity of increased exertion in the best of causes—the improvement of our country in civilization and morals, and the increasing of the knowledge of salvation. Of all the countries of the earth, we are among the most favoured by Providence. While other lands are wasted by famine, or desolated by war, we are in the enjoyment of domestic peace and prosperity; and surely the least return we can make to the bountiful Author of these our blessings is, to diffuse among our countrymen, the knowledge of his gospel.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM....*Married*.....At Lisburn, E. Pollock, of Carnbane, esq. to Miss Agnes Smith, daughter of Wm. Smith, of Lisburn, esq. At Belfast, Mr. E. Kearney, late of Liverpool, to Miss Donnelly of this town. Mr. J. Bell to Miss Catherine Balfa. Mr. Anderson of Movill, to Miss Patterson, daughter of Mr. Patterson of Ballysally. At Belfast, Mr. R. Blair, to Miss Cowan of Malone. Mr. N. M'Iheran, to Miss Mary Hull, of Ballycastle. Mr. R. M'Allister, of Ballycastle, to Miss O'Neill, of Grinans. In Belfast, Mr. G. Montgomery, merchant, to Miss Campbell, daughter of J. Campbell, esq. Donegall-street.

Died....Mrs. Mary Graham, relict of the late Mr. J. Graham, of Belfast, merchant. At Dumcroone, near Coleraine, Mrs. Wilson, aged 53. In Belfast, suddenly, Mr. Andrew Mulholland, formerly of Moneymore. At Camin, near Toomebridge, Mr. Henry M'Gee. At Lisburn, aged 81, Mrs. Elinor Ravenhill. At Mr. S. Brown's, Townview Mrs. Barklie, wife to Mr. Archibald Barklie, of Inver, Larne. She had walked out there from Belfast, on the day of her death, and was about to return to prepare her dress for the assembly, the same evening, when she was suddenly taken ill, and notwithstanding medical advice was immediately called in, she died about 12 o'clock the same night. Suddenly, at her house, near Belfast, Miss Fleming. At Ballymacarret, Mr Gilbert O'Prey aged 36. In Belfast, Mr Thomas M'Donnell. On the 2d ult. at Ballymena, aged about 80 years, John Phillips, esq. late Colonel of a Regiment of loyal militia, in the State of South Carolina; which post he sustained, with much credit to himself and essential service to his King, during the whole of the war between this country and the States of America. Mr. Phillips left this kingdom about five years before the commencement of the war, and, having purchased a small estate in Crown County, the vicinity of Wynnsborough, he had so much improved it, that when the result of the contention obliged him to abandon it, his loss was estimated at £20,000, for which, together with his services, he was only allowed £500, and an annual pension of £100, owing to the numerous claims made upon Government by American Loyalists at that time—So good a soldier and so forward in action was Colonel Phillips, that on one occasion he returned from the field of battle with six, and another time four musket balls through his hat; he having been the particular mark of the Provincial Riflemen.—Yet, so unexceptionable was the private character of the man, that when the dispute subsided, Congress restored 500 acres of his land to his relatives. At Randalstown, Miss Martha Adams. In Belfast, Mr. Robert Gihon.

ARMAGH...*Married*...At Lurgan, Mr. J. Ferguson, to Miss Jane Tuckington. At Broomfield, Mr. Francis Horner of Ballibay, merchant, to Catherine, daughter of Jacob Hancock, esq. of Lisburn.

DOWN—*Married*—At Newtonards, Mr. R. Chambers, to Miss F. A. Ferguson. At Morne, F. M'Neilly, esq. to Miss Walmsley. At Banbridge, Mr. D. M'Main to Miss M. M'William. At Newtonards, Mr. T. M'Cleery, to Miss Millar. At Newry, Mr. B. Coleman, to Miss A. J.

Bowden. W. Isaac Corry of Derramore co. Armagh, esq. to Miss Holmes, eldest daughter of James Holmes, esq. of Inver Lodge, co. Antrim. At Blaris, by the Rev. Dr. Cupples, Mr. C. Lutten, to Miss E. Carleton. At Ganaway, Mr. J. Taylor of Greyabbey, to Miss J. M'Clure of Ganaway.

Died....At Castlewellan, James Nicholson, esq. aged 68 years. At Dromore, Lieut P. Hall late of the 30th regiment of foot. At Cultra, Mr. W. Menage, aged 67 years. At Lurgan, Mr. W. Thompson, Linen-draper. At Carrireagh, near Hillsborough, Elizabeth M'Cann, wife to Mr. O. M'Cann. At Newry, Mr. A. Atkinson, aged 80.

FERMANAGH...*Married*...Capt. W. Stirling St. Clair, to Miss E. Gordon, youngest daughter of the late Colonel Gordon of Feltrum.

MONAGHAN...*Died*...At Ballybay, Mr. J. Gillespie, Attorney.

TYRONE...*Married*...James Denham, esq. to Miss Richardson, daughter of Sir W. Richardson, Bart. of Castle-hill.

LEINSTER.

At a meeting of the Provost and Senior Fellows, on Monday the 16th, for the purpose of electing a professor of Botany, in the room of the late Dr. Scott, Dr. Wm. Allman, of Clonmel, was declared duly elected.—The candidates were Dr. Allman, Dr. Wade, Dr. Orpen, Dr. Harty, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Litton, Dr. M'Laughlin, and Dr. Gamble.

CARLOW...*Married*...F.W. Hopkins, Esq. to Miss Catharine Eustace, 3rd daughter of Hardy Eustace, of Carlow, esq.

DUBLIN...*Married*...In North Ann-Street, T. Fitzpatrick, of Killisandra, esq. to Miss Eliza Grier of Drumgoole. In Gt. George's-street, Thomas Vicars, of Vilater, Co. Wicklow, esq. Barrister at Law, to Miss Francis Harty, daughter of the late Timothy Harty, of Kilkenny, esq. In New-row, Dr. Brady, to Miss Kelly. Verner Moore, esq. Barrister at Law, to Mrs. Sharp, Lower Gardiner's-street. At Rathmines, John Paisley, esq. to Miss Rickey. James Woodroofe, esq. merchant, to Elizabeth, second daughter of the Rev. Joseph Fairtlough, of Ballymakennedy, near Drogheda. Patrick Madden, esq. to Miss Ann Reynolds, of Meath-street. Mr. Laurence Keogh, of Aston's-quay, to Miss Strong, daughter of the late Francis Strong of Mayfield, co. Tipperary.

Died...In Fishamble-street, aged 80, Mr. I. Lucas, nephew to the late celebrated Doctor Lucas.

LONGFORD...*Married*...Mr. John Murdoch of Newtown Forbes, aged 89, to Miss Anne Farrell, aged 16, after a short courtship.

KING'S CO.—*Died*, at his house at Newton, Sir Michael Smith, Bart, late master of the Rolls, and for many years a Baron in the Exchequer—he is succeeded in his honours by his son Sir William Smith, Baron of the Exchequer. By this death a pension of 2700*l*, enjoyed by him, as a retired judge, ceases.

MUNSTER.

About the beginning of this Month, as Lionel Stephens, Esq. of Drominah, near Waterford, whose constant exertions to relieve the distresses of his poorer neighbours merit the highest praise, was performing one of those simple operations which do not require the aid of medical skill, he unfortunately cut his finger and inoculated himself with virulent matter from the sore he was endeavouring to heal. The effect was rapid and alarming. The hand and part of the arm swelled to a great size, and the most serious apprehensions were entertained for a considerable time of a general mortification. It will give the public pleasure to learn, that so benevolent an act has not been attended with such fatal consequences; and that Mr. Stephens is pronounced to be almost wholly out of danger. The progress of the distemper was, we understand, arrested by the application of circular blisters above the elbow, a practice recently adopted by professional Gentlemen, and likely to prove of importance and advantage.

Lately, several houses in Upper-third, county of Waterford, have been plundered of arms. About the beginning of this month, a large body of Caravats, about 60 in number, mounted and armed at so early an hour as five o'clock, passed over the bridge of Portlaw, and proceeded to the lands of Darghill, where they took away arms from several houses; some yeomanry pistols, guns, muskets, &c. How far they extended this night's depredations we have not been able to ascertain, but have been informed, that on their retreat, somewhere in the neighbourhood of Curraghmore, they were attacked by an armed party of men, when, upon some shots being fired, they dispersed, but not before some of their party were

supposed to have been wounded. Their appearance at so early an hour, must have been with the intention of surprising the country people whilst at supper, and before their doors would be barricadoed for the night. The audacity of those proceeding, is such as scarce to require a comment.

On Friday, the 20th, the following Noblemen and Gentlemen were admitted Privy Councellors:—The Earls of O'Neill, Clancarty, and Shannon; Lord H. Moore; Cols. Bagwell, Foster, Barry, and Vereker.

A whimsical instance of summary punishment has, a few days since, taken place in the parish of Mothill:—A party of Caravats broke into a farmer's house, declaring their determination to punish him for having taken a farm which had not been occupied before by his family. The unfortunate culprit excused himself by saying, he was prevailed upon by his wife to act thus against his conscience. "This is all well known to us. We shall inflict no punishment save on the guilty. For you, we consider you beneath our notice, as a wretch who would submit to a petticoat-government." The woman, being forced to put on her husband's breeches, was hoisted on the back of a sturdy Caravat, and whipped with a stirrup-leather so severely, that she has not been able to sit down ever since.

ENGLISH.

A considerable quantity of silver coin, of Elizabeth, James, and Charles, was dug up last week on a farm called Lan, in the parish of Abernant, near Caermarthen. Tradition tells us, that an encampment stood on this spot, during part of Cromwell's Protectorship.

A mine of zinc ore has been discovered on Lord Ribblesdale's estate, in Craven, Yorkshire, where there were formerly copper mines. This ore has been used as a substitute for white lead in painting, the colour of which it attains by long exposure: it does not blister, is more adhesive, and is not decomposed by salt water. This mineral is found in strata at the bottom of caverns, about 8 fathoms from the surface, in some cases 6 feet thick: one of the caverns is 104 yards, another 84, and a third 40 yards in length, and about 14 yards wide. His Lordship supposes this mineral has been sublimed by a volcano, as the stones surrounding it have been vitrified. About 2000 tons of it have been sold at from 5 to 10*l.* per ton, to make brass, when mixed with copper, exclusive of what has been used for painting.

The prisoners on the debtor's side of Newgate, London, to the number of 300, have sent a circular letter to every Member of the House of Parliament, supplicating their consideration, and indulging a hope that in the ensuing Session an enlightened Legislature would open the prison doors, and restore to the bosom of their country and families, the soldier, sailor, man of letters and mechanical ability, now sinking indiscriminately under the miseries of confinement, resulting from debts incurred in consequence of the necessities of the times, unforeseen misfortunes, implicit confidence, and other afflicting circumstances.

FOREIGN.

The following account of the final result of our Expedition to Spain, though beyond the date which we have prescribed for our political register is of too interesting a nature, to be withheld.

THE English army after a quick retreat, in which, though closely pursued by a French force much superior in number, they gained Corunna with but little comparative loss. They entered that town on the 12th of December, 1808. On the 16th, about one o'clok the enemy under the command of Marshall Soult, was observed to be in motion, and forming various columns of attack, which soon advanced in a rapid and determined manner against the right of the English army. Sir J. Moore who had previously suspected their design from their movements, was prepared to receive them. The first effort of the enemy was opposed by Sir J. Moore, Sir David Baird, and Lord Wm. Bentinck with the 42nd regiment who have already made themselves so illustrious by their conduct on former similar occasions. The action was bloody and well contested: in the beginning Sir D. Baird was forced to retire in consequence of a severe wound in the arm; and shortly after Sir J. Moore fell by a cannon shot. The troops though not unacquainted with the loss they had sustained, were not dismayed, but by the most determined bravery not only repelled every attempt but forced

the enemy to retire although supported by fresh troops which poured in during the engagement.

Finding themselves foiled in every attempt to force the right, their efforts were directed against the centre, where they were again successfully resisted by the brigade under M. Gen. Manningham, and M. Gen. Leith. Upon the left they first contented themselves with an attack upon our piquets which in general maintained their ground. Finding their efforts unavailing on the right and centre, the attack on the left was made more violent, and they even succeeded in obtaining possession of a village which was situated in front of that part of the line. From this however they were soon driven, and before five in the evening, our troops had not only successfully repelled every assault, but had gained ground in almost all points, while the enemy confined their operations to a cannonade with a view to draw off their troops.

At night the embarkation began, and with the exception of the brigade under M. Generals Hill and Beresford, who were to remain on shore until the movements of the enemy became manifest, the whole was embarked before day-light.

About 8 o'clock the next morning, the enemy pushed their light troops towards the town, and shortly after occupied the heights of St. Lucia, which command the harbour. But notwithstanding this circumstance, and the manifold defects of the place, there being no fear that the rear-guard could be forced; the embarkation of Majors General Hill and Beresford, took place during the evening, and the whole rear-guard, together with all the wounded that had not been previously embarked before one the next morning.

The brunt of the action chiefly fell upon the 4th, 42d, 50th, and 81st regiments, with part of the brigade of Guards and the 26th regiment. The number of killed and wounded has not been yet ascertained, but from General Ho e's dispatches there is reason to think that the loss does not exceed from 7 to 800 in killed and wounded; that of the enemy may be conjectured at double that number. Several officers of rank are in this list; those whose names are yet known, are Lieut. Col. Napier, 92nd; Majors Napier and Stanhope, 50th; killed: Lieut. Col. Winch, 4th; Lieut. Col. Maxwell, 26th; Lieut. Col. Fane, 59th; Lieut. Griffith, Guards; Majors Miller and Williams; 81 wounded.

Interesting account of the destruction of a Royal Tiger, by one of the Officers of the 2d Bat. of the 7th Regiment N. I. stationed at Kaira.—On the 15th June, some of the officers of the corps formed a party to visit the celebrated ruins of Mahmoodabad. On approaching them, they were alarmed by a sound like the roar of a Royal Tiger. They did not, however, immediately see the animal, and proceeded towards the ruins; but, on advancing a little further, he suddenly burst upon their view, in all his terrors, and sprang at them with indescribable ferocity. A precipitate retreat was the natural consequence, and one of the Gentlemen, who was but indifferently mounted, perceiving that he could not depend on his horse, with the promptitude of a vigorous and decisive mind, directed his course to a tree which he immediately ascended with his fowling-piece in his hand. His victim thus singled, the Tiger gave over the pursuit of the others, and bounded on the horse, who stood paralysed with fear at the foot of the tree. At this crisis, the Gentleman in the tree took a cool and steady aim at the savage, and wounded him, though not mortally. The Tiger feeling his wound, retreated to some distance, but almost immediately returned with increased fury. In the mean time, the Officer had reloaded, and taking aim at him again, while venting his rage on the miserable horse, wounded him mortally. On the first attack of the Tiger, the retreat of the party was too precipitate and general to admit of individual attentions. Each person trusted to the speed of his horse, and our hero was undesignedly left behind. But when, on rallying in a neighbouring village, his comrades perceived that he was missing, they instantly armed themselves and returned with a large concourse of the natives to the spot. They came in sight of the tree just as the Tiger had received his mortal wound. He again retreated, and was traced into a jungle, where they found him writhing in agony. On their approach, he collected his remaining strength into one final effort, and prepared to spring, but the spear of a native prevented him, and put an end to his struggles. On measuring him, he was found to extend ten feet eight inches from the nose to the tip of the tail. The poor horse was so mangled, that he was immediately put to death.

Bombay Gazette.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT,

FROM DECEMBER 20, 1808, TILL JANUARY 20, 1809.

THE weather, since last Report, having been in general either frosty or tempestuous, very little progress has been made in tillage, for the ensuing spring crops.

The early sown wheat in this Province, keeps up a promising appearance, whilst the late crops do not afford the farmer so agreeable a prospect.

Accounts from some parts of Leinster give a similar representation, and furnish fresh occasion for our recommending the practice of early sowing.

The prices of grain are rather advancing, Oats in particular has within the last four weeks experienced a considerable rise; and Oatmeal of course continues higher than has been usual at so early a period of the season.

Potatoes have also kept at a higher rate than there seemed any reason to expect, and there now remains very little ground for hoping that provisions will be as cheap as was at first expected.

The Turnip crops are consuming faster than usual, and will not bring the stock now feeding within a month, at least of the time they have generally been kept to—which will probably occasion a considerable scarcity of Beef in the markets in the months of April and May.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

ANOTHER month is elapsed, and our political and commercial prospects are involved in still deeper gloom. At the close of last month we were told not to despond, for America must rescind the embargo. This dream is gone by, and we are now told, that American produce will be smuggled over to us, and that we shall have flaxseed from that country by stealth, notwithstanding the additional regulations of America to enforce still more strictly the embargo; and that we shall have also abundant supplies from the ports of the Baltic, although in common years when there were no restrictions on the northern commerce, the quantity from Russia and Holland did not amount to one-fourth of the flaxseed sown in Ireland. We seem now likely to repeat in our commerce, the fatal errors into which we have fallen in our politics. Such has been the current of events in the war-system, that at the end of every year, as favourable terms of peace could not have been procured as at the beginning, and yet the people have been buoyed up by one false hope or another. Each in its turn has proved equally delusive, yet still when one bubble burst, the next flattering scheme has met with equally ready acceptance, although the whisperings of sound policy and true wisdom, have been in the language of the poet:

"But do not thou the tale believe,
"They're sisters all, and all deceive."

After the unsuccessful termination of the attempt at Armagh, to rouse those interested in the linen trade, to consider the alarming situation of this country from the probable defective supply of flaxseed for the ensuing spring, some of the minority, whose fears were not at all lessened by any reasonings which they heard from the opponents of publicly petitioning, willing to leave no measure unattempted by which the case might engage the consideration of Parliament, have published "Considerations" on the subject (which we annex) and sent them to many members of both Houses; and have written to London to interest those concerned in the trade there, to engage in the further distribution of them. If this publication answer no other purpose, it may serve as a PROTEST against the proceedings at Armagh, and be a memorial of the exertions used to avert the impending danger.

Considerations on the State of the Linen-trade of Ireland, in case Flaxseed, in sufficient quantities, does not arrive for sowing in the Spring of 1809, *respectfully submitted to the Members of both Houses of the Imperial Parliament:*

"Owing to the embargo, little flaxseed was received from America last year, except some which left that country before the embargo was laid on.

"Much less flaxseed was sown last year than usual; and owing to the wetness of the Summer, of what was sown, the crop was deficient, both in quantity and quality, so that there was not more than one-half or one-third of the usual quantity of flax.

"Flax is now very considerably advanced in price, in consequence of this deficiency, and by reason of the increasing demand from Great Britain, on account of the failure of the usual supply of that article from the ports of the Baltic, and must still rise higher, in case we are disappointed of an abundant supply of flaxseed for the ensuing season of sowing. The present price of flax is more than double what it was nine months ago.

"By a return to the Linen Board, there appear to be only 6,000 hogsheads of last year's importation fit for sowing, now in Ireland. The usual annual supply from Holland, Riga, &c. in case of no interruption, does not exceed 10,000 hogsheads, and the quantity usually sown in Ireland, amounts to 45,000 hogsheads. Thirty-five thousand hogsheads were usually imported from the United States of North America.

"If in consequence of the embargo, that supply be cut off from coming to Ireland, the situation of the Linen trade of this country, must, in the course of the ensuing Summer, be critical in the extreme; a stop must be put to the manufacture, and upwards of half a million of industrious inhabitants thrown out of employment.

"These alarming considerations are submitted to Members of Parliament, in the hopes of inducing them to consider of the impolicy of retaining the Orders in Council, and that measures may be taken, before it be too late for vessels to arrive in time from America, in the Spring, to induce America to rescind the embargo.

"Flaxseed received later than the beginning of May, at the very farthest, would be too late to afford relief for this year.

"The distresses consequent on such a state, and the dangers arising from so great a part of the most industrious portion of the population of Ireland being thrown idle, demand the most serious attention.

"THOS. PHELPS.
"JOHN HANCOCK.
"JAMES CHRISTY.
"WILLIAM DAWSON."

It may be further remarked, as a proof of the little expectation in America of getting off the flaxseed, that in the port of Philadelphia, from several vessels having that article on board, the shippers have re-landed it, and sold it at a very considerable loss. In other instances where it was insured, the owners have abandoned it to be sold on account of the underwriters. We find, that notwithstanding the violence of the federal prints in America, the measures of the Jefferson administration, of which the embargo is a prominent feature, are now likely to receive the sanction of the majority of American citizens, as evidenced by the probable issue of the election for the presidentship in favour of James Madison, who is known to be a promoter of the same system, that the present president has pursued.

The Linens lately purchased on speculation in Belfast, Dublin, and London, are said not to sell readily. The rise was so rapid, as to alarm the retail traders, as well as the purchasers for private consumption, and they generally hold off. The spirit of speculation, it may with propriety be termed a species of gambling, which the present fluctuating state of commerce, by diverting capital from its accustomed channels, has introduced into almost every trade and manufacture, cannot be considered as favourable to good morals, for by introducing, to so great a degree, the spirit of adventure, subjecting to great losses, and holding out the prospects of great gain, trade and traders are thrown into such a state of uncertainty, that consequences destructive to a system of sound morality may be reasonably dreaded, as well from sudden accumulations, as from the heavy losses arising from unsuccessful enterprize.

If the sudden advance on many articles of prime necessity, occasioned by our commercial war-system, affected only the successful adventurers in the present lottery of speculation, the inconvenience would not be so much to be deplored; but the unambitious trader, who is contented to hold on quietly in the even tenor of his way, the middling and poorer classes of society sensibly feel the pressure of the times in the advance of most of the necessaries of life, as soap, candles, timber, and even the important article of flour. For immediately on the account of the confirmation of the embargo being continued, having arrived at Liverpool, wheat and flour advanced in price, in consequence of the prospect of supplies of those articles from America, as well as from the North of Europe, being cut off; and flour has since risen with us, by reason of the advance in the English market. Thus, in another way, we feel the effects of the embargo operating indirectly against us.

It is asserted on good authority, that the distresses of the weavers at Manchester are as

great now, as they were during the last summer. Despair seems to have entered their dwellings, as all they can spare is sold, and all they can dispense with for a season is pawned; never, it is feared, to be redeemed. Such are the trophies of war

Exchange on London has fallen in Belfast, during this month, to 5 and 4¾ per cent. while Discount on bank notes has risen to 3 and 3½ per cent. These rates evince the decreasing quantity of guineas in circulation: but when the new banks open, and the bills falling due in Belfast become payable generally in notes, the demand for gold will probably nearly cease. It is impossible to foresee the ultimate effects which this general disuse of gold, as a circulating medium, will produce; but, in the mean time, trade will be relieved from a heavy burden, and from the inconveniences and perplexities arising from two media of different values. One fact is obvious, that the small quantity of guineas, in circulation among us for several years past, subjected us to all the inconveniences of a defective supply, and gave no security against the dangers which some apprehend from their disuse. The Acts which suspended the cash payments at the national banks of England and Ireland, settled the point for the Empire at large. We, in one corner, could not struggle with any effect against the general current.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from December 20, 1808, *till January* 20, 1809.

Barometer.....highest - - - -	29	50	Thermometer.....highest - - - - - -	41	0
lowest - - - -	28	40	lowest - - - - - -	34	30
mean - - - - -	29	10	mean - - - - -	33	30

Synochus, - - - - - -	2	Of a mixed nature between inflammatory and typhus fever.
Typhus mitior, - - - -	2	Nervous, or common contagious fever.
.....*gravior*, - - -	1	Putrid fever.
Pneumonia, - - - - -	1	Pleurisy.
Opthalmia - - - - - -	3	Inflammation of the eyes.
Perniones, - - - - - -	4	Kibes, or chilblains.
Arthrodynia, - - - - -	3	Chronic rheumatism.
Psora, - - - - - - - -	4	Itch.
Herpes, - - - - - - -	3	Ringworm, or tetter.
Phthysis Pulmonalis, -	1	Consumption of the lungs.
Asthma, - - - - - - -	2	Asthma.
Catarrhus, - - - - -	5	Cattarh, or common cold.
Scarlatina, - - - - - -	1	Scarlet fever.
Rubeola - - - - - - -	1	Measles.
Scrophula, - - - - - -	2	Evil.
Dysuria Mucosa, - - -	1	Gravel.
Hæmorrhois - - - - -	2	Piles.
Gonorrhœa, *Syphilis*, -	5	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles, - - -	19	Febrile and bowel complaints of Children.

The only medical occurrences worthy of being noticed since our last report, are as follows: 1st, a curious disease of the skin, in which the roots of the hairs were elevated so as to resemble the rough side of a grater, or what is termed *goose skin*. There was a considerable imperfection in the sense of feeling, owing, perhaps, to the diminished surface, to which objects could be applied, or perhaps, to a morbid sensibility in the parts, as there appeared to be a small pustule surrounding the root of every hair, when viewed with a convex lens. Antimony, mercury, and all the various internal remedies usually prescribed in cutaneous diseases were tried without any good effect, and it seems at present to be giving way to topical applications of a stimulating nature: the result shall be given in our next report.

2d. A child was inoculated with vaccine virus, and on the day following was attacked with fever, accompanied with sore throat, which ultimately proved to be scarlet fever. During its progress there appeared a very small vesicle in each arm, where the virus was introduced, and on the sixteenth day from its introduction,

both pustules had the appearance that usually characterizes the disease on the eighth day.

3d. By a late regulation of the University of Edinburgh, the fees of each class are raised from three to five guineas, and the fee of graduation, from thirteen to twenty-six guineas; this will tend in some degree to promote the reform in the medical profession, so lately, but ineffectually proposed by Doctor Harrison, of Lincolnshire. The students have had meetings for the purpose of petitioning the Senatus Academicus for its repeal, but it is not likely they will be successful.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From December 20, till January 20.

While rugged rocks refuse the opening flower,
Nor even a moss beguiles the tedious hour. SMITH.

The whole period since the last Report has been so uncommonly severe, and such continual falls of snow have covered the country, in the neighbourhood of Belfast, that our remarks are confined to Zoology alone.

The immense flocks of Fieldfares (Turdus Pilaris) and Redwings (I. Iliacus which we mentioned in one of our former numbers as having arrived unusually early, have all disappeared; several rare birds have however made their appearance as the Golden Plover (Charadrius Pluvialis) Grey Plover (Tringa squaterola) Turnstone (Tringa Interpres) Dun Diver (Mergus Castor.)

On the 31st December a large flock of Wild Swans (Anas Cygnus) were flying to the West emitting by times a sound not unmusical, when combined with the noise of their wings; but certainly not meriting the high encomiums which they have had conferred on them by the ancient poets, every allowance being made for the different state of musical composition. To say that this flight of Swans indicated the severe snow storm which followed on the 5th of January, a number of observations would be necessary.

On the 12th of January some of the White fronted Wild Goose (Anas albifrons) shot in the neigbourhood, were in Belfast Market.

Dec. 31. A mild day. Common Wren singing.
Jan. 9. Common Wren singing.
13. Common Wren and Wood-lark singing.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From December 20, till January 20.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - the languid sun,
Faint from the west emits his ev'ning ray,
Earth's universal face, deep hid, and chill,
Is one wide dazzling waste, that buries wide
The works of Man THOMSON.

Such a uniformly severe state of weather is seldom known in this country: few days have passed without snow, and on the 5th and 6th of January so much fell as nothing was like it since February 1799. On the roads it was accumulated to the depth of 10 or 12 feet, rendering them impassible to the mail coach for some days.

Decm. 21st . . . . . Thaw apparently commenced, a trifling shower.
22, ... Clouds beautifully tinged, hard frost.
23, 24, 25, 26, . . Dark morning, snow showers.
27, 28, 29, ... Dark calm warmish day.
30, 31, ... Calm wet days.
January 1st . . . . . Cold dark day with a slight shower.
2, 3, ... Sleet showers, mountain tops white.

4, ... Small hail falling through the day.
5, ... Stormy night with snow which was driven into great wreaths.
6, 7, ... Thaw with small rain.
8, 9, ... Pleasant calm clear day.
10, ... Rain during the night, pleasant calm day.
11, 12, 13, ... Pleasant dark day.
14, 15, 16, ... Cold dark days.
17, ... Thawing, clear day.
18, ... Pleasant, bright, frosty day.
19, ... Dark day with a trifling fall of snow in the afternoon.
20, ... Pleasant clear day.

The variations of the Barometer have been uncommonly small, on the 7th and 8th of January it was 28, on the 16th and 17th at 30, all the rest of the time it was at 29.

The Thermometer has had also little variation; on the 22nd of December in the morning it was 29, on the 20th of January 28, on December the 29th and 30th it was 40, the 31st 41, the rest of the time it varied little above 32.

The wind was in the Northern points 6 times, Southern 7, Eastern 15, Western once.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA,

FOR FEBRUARY, 1809.

On the First, the Moon rises at 47 min. past 6 in the evening, being then very near Regulus, the bright star in the Lion; as she mounts the heavens we shall see that she has passed the line between the first of Hydra and the first of the Lion; and at 9, when she is 39° 27′ from Pollux in the Twins, and 52° 42′ from Spica in the Virgin, we may notice her peculiar situation in the eastern hemisphere; she is east of the line between the first of Hydra and the 1st, 3d, and 6th, of the Lion, and the 3d and 4th, of the Greater Bear. She sets about 8 the next morning.

Fifth, She rises at 53 min. past 11, being then near Spica in the Virgin and Mars, and forms with them a very pleasing object, during the night. She passes the star at about half past 5 in the afternoon—at 9 she is 43° 50 from Antares, and 56° 10′ from Regulus.

Tenth, She rises at 34 min. past 4 in the morning, and is then a considerable distance from Saturn, which will be observed to be increasing. On this day she passes the meridian at 32 min. past 8, A. M.

Fifteenth, The thin crescent of the Moon may be seen this evening, by any person who has a good view of the horizon at W. S. W. in a line almost with Mercury, and the 4 small stars in the Water-pot. The Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter, all appearing in the western hemisphere, will, no doubt, excite much admiration even in the least attentive observers. She sets at 35 min. past 6, P. M.

Twentieth, She rises at 19 min. past 9, A. M. and passes the meridian at 49 min. past 4, P. M. she is now at a considerable distance from Venus. She is in a conspicuous situation between the 3 first stars of the Ram, the Pleiades, and Menkar, with the small stars in the head of the Whale. Before Mercury sets, it will be delightful to observe the groupe formed by him, Jupiter, Venus, the stars in the Ram, the Whale, the Moon, the Pleiades, and Aldebaran, near the meridian.

Twenty-fifth, The Moon rises about 1 o'clock, P. M. and passes the meridian at 49 min. past 8, at this time Venus is sufficiently high above the horizon to be seen. Under the Moon are the 3d of the Twins to the west, and the first of the Little Dog to the east of the meridian, above her to the east are the 2 first of the Twins.

Sirius is now near her, but West of the meridian, at 6 she is 44° 19 from Regulus, and 39° 51′ from Abdebaran.

Twenty-eighth, She rises at 26 min. past 4. P. M. and passes the meridian at 18 min. past 11, Regulus being above her to the east of the meridian, and Mars and Spica above the horizon, south east by east.—At 6 she is 59° 14 from Spica, and 74° 25′ from Aldebaran, and at 9 she is 76° 5 from the latter, and 57° 33′ from the former.

Mercury is an evening Star during the whole of this month, and in the middle of it is so long above the horizon after Sun set, that any person may, if the evenings are fine, become acquainted with this planet. He is at his greatest elongation on the 17th, on which day he will not set for nearly an hour and three quarters after the sun. His motion is direct until the 24th, when he is stationary, during the remainder of the month he is retrograde.

Venus is an evening Star during this month, and has a direct motion—on the 1st she is distant from Jupiter only $5\frac{1}{4}$ deg. but her distance is continually encreasing, and as she is high above the horizon for a considerable time after Sun set, we may have every opportunity that we could desire, if the evenings are clear, of observing her appearance and motion.

Mars is visible in the night during this month, on the 1st he rises about 11 at night, and on the 25th about 10 min. before 10—his motion is direct, through nearly 4° 30.—The Moon passes him on the 5th.

Jupiter is an evening Star, and on the 1st is about 5° 30 from Venus,—his motion is direct and as he moves slowly, and Venus advances speedily, the distance between them will appear every night to be rapidly encreasing; but as Venus retreats from, Mercury approaches to him.—The Moon passes him on the 16th.

Saturn is a morning Star, being in the meridian on the 1st at 24 min. past 7 and on the 25th at 55 min. past 5 P. M. his motion is direct—he is in a conspicuous situation, to the east of the Scorpion, and forming with Antares a pleasing object to the early traveller.

Herschell rises before midnight on the 1st, and passes the meridian on the 1st at 50 min. past 5 in the morning and on the 22d at 32 min. past 4.—On the 13th he is stationary so that his motion this month is scarcely perceptible. The 1st Star of the Balance, called Zubeneschamali, is a sufficient direction to him, from this Star he is distant about $2\frac{1}{4}$ deg. being to the West of it; the Moon passes him on the morning of the 7th, being then very near him.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. Emersions.				2d SATELLITE. Emersions.				3d SATELLITE.					4th SATELLITE.				
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.		DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	
2	4	35	24	1	12	45	42	5	11	21	4	Im.	17	6	49	40	Im.
3	23	4	20	5	2	3	38	5	14	14	29	E.	17	9	37	33	E.
5	17	33	9	8	15	21	35	12	15	24	23	Im.					
7	12	2	5	12	4	39	35	12	18	16	44	E.					
9	6	30	54	15	17	57	32	19	19	26	52	Im.					
11	0	59	48	19	7	15	35	19	22	18	8	E.					
12	19	28	36														
14	13	57	30														
16	8	26	17														
18	2	55	9														
19	21	23	56														

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Lydia's Communication has been unintentionally delayed, but will appear in our next.....Several others are received and under consideration.....We regret that a disappointment has prevented the review of Mr. Trotter's Letter on the Veto from appearing in the present number.

Dr. Neilson's Irish Grammar has been received and will, as well as Mr. Trotter's book, be noticed in our next number.

ERRATA.

Vol. 1, No. 3, page 242, line 4, from the bottom, for *Stairs* read *Stares.* No. 5, p. 398, l. 28 from the bottom, for I Febrile, &c. read 21. Same page l. 23, after chilblain, insert the words, *both of*, and dele them in the following line. Vol 2, No. 6, p. 1, col. 2, l. 16, from the bottom, for *Pyranees*, read *Pyrenees.* P. 54, l. 4, for *choires* read *choisies.*